



Can the library be a publisher?

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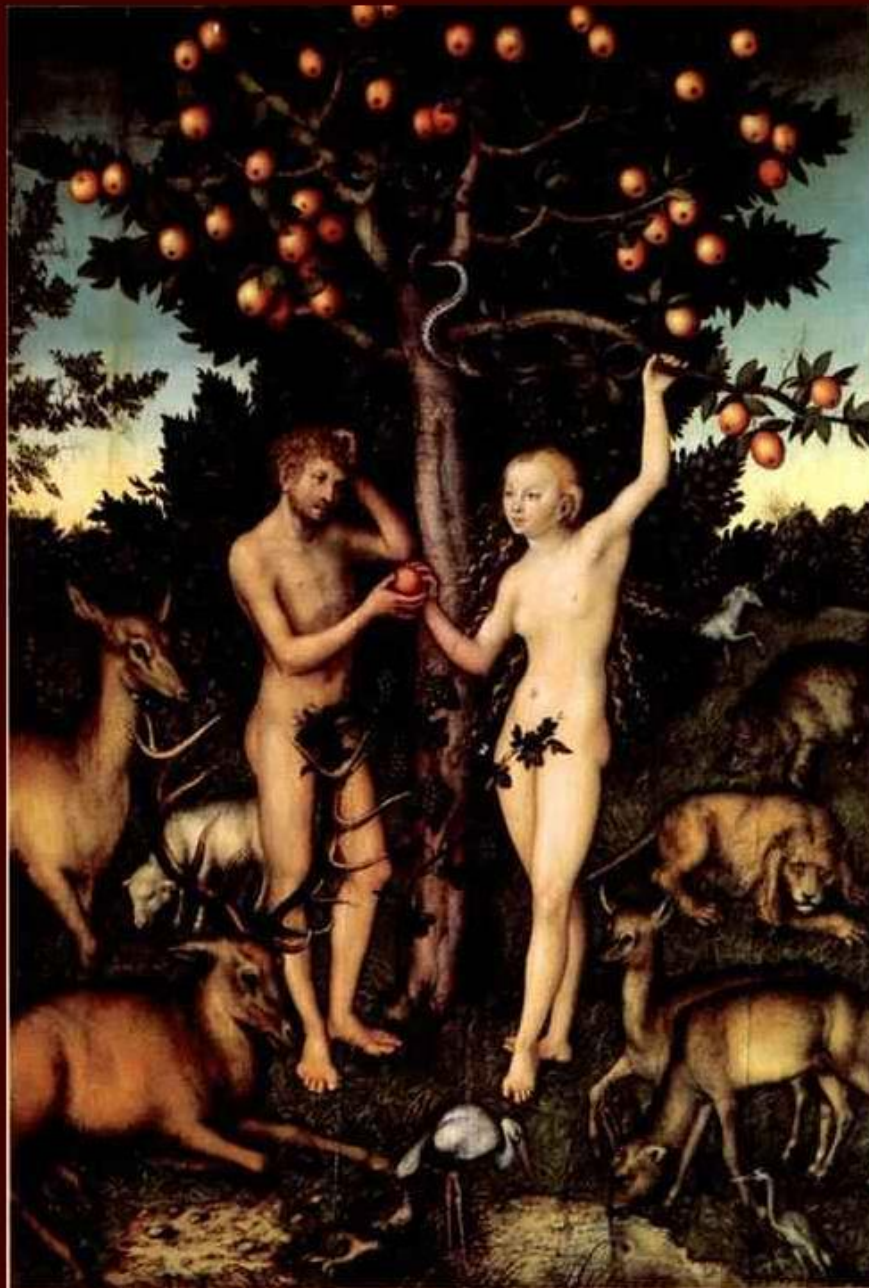
Disciple of Eve

ELAG 2008

Rethinking the Library

Wageningen, 16 April 2008

Eve



inaugurating the
A2K movement

Adam and Eve. Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1526.
Courtauld Gallery, London.

May 10, 2005





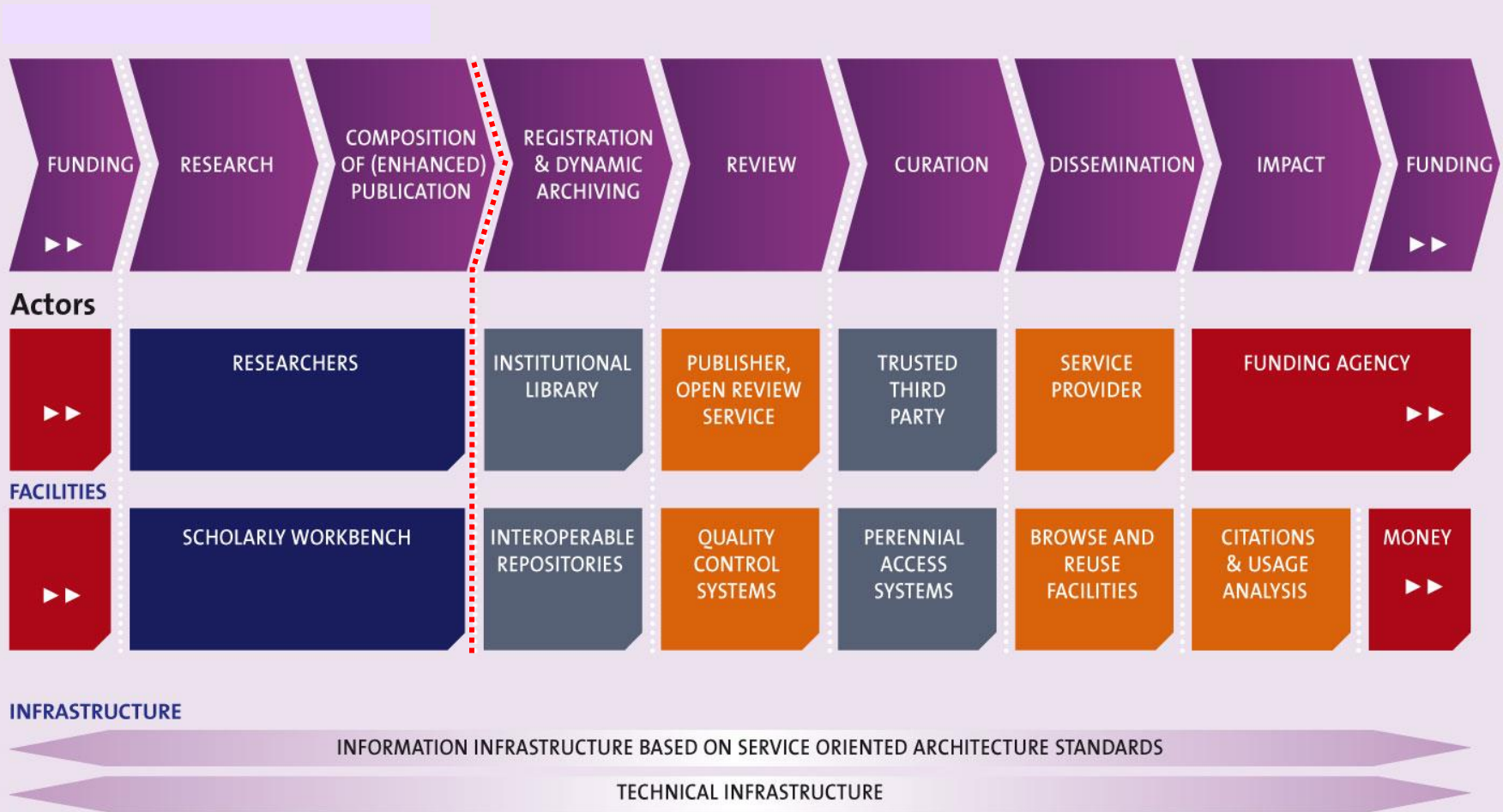
Berlin Declaration, October 2003

"Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society."

European University Association, January 2008

"Universities should develop institutional policies and strategies that foster the availability of their quality controlled research results for the broadest possible range of users, maximizing their visibility, accessibility and scientific impact."

Research life cycle



= financing
 = production
 = content infrastructure
 = content based services

Quality control systems

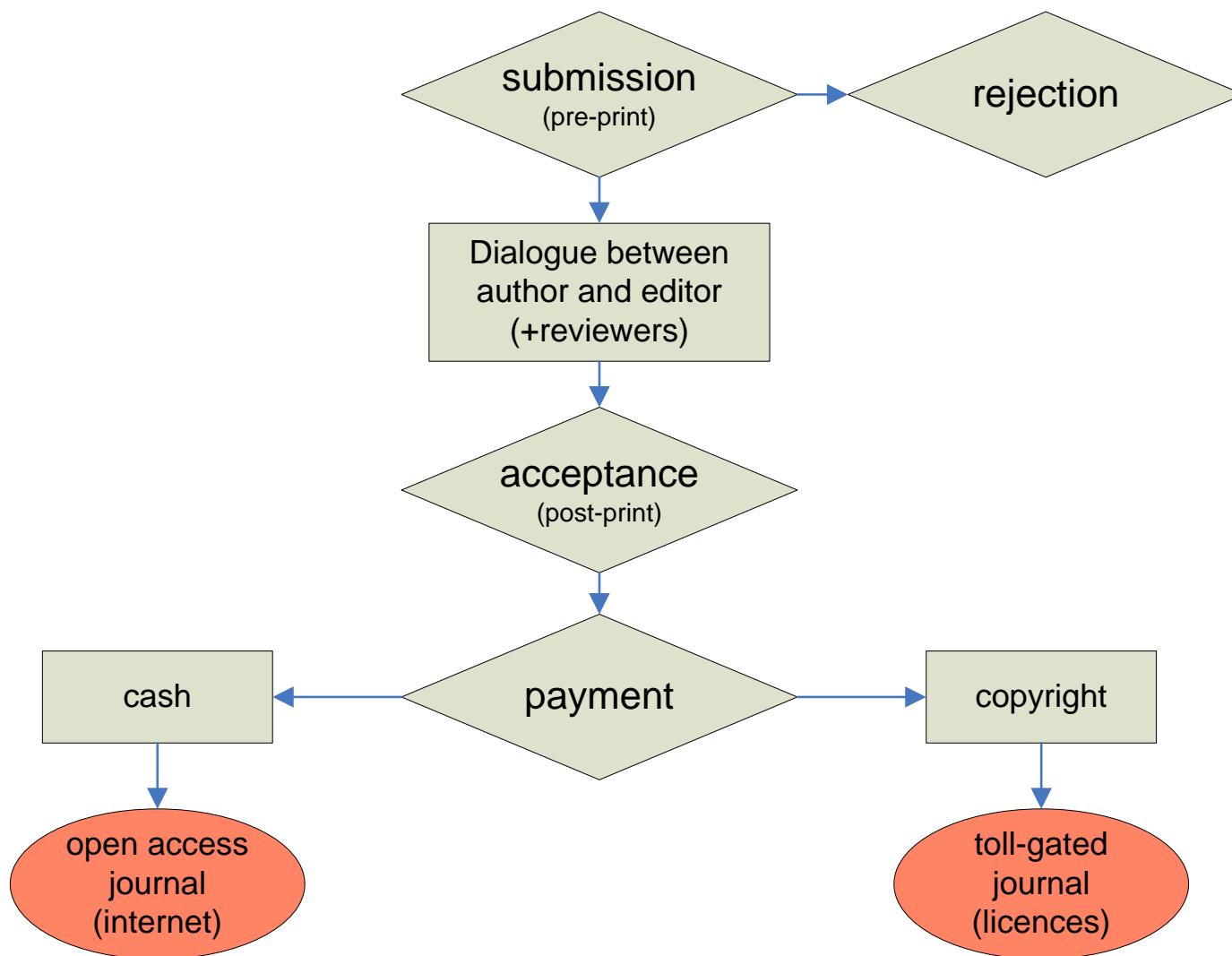
in place for

- exams
- bachelor/master theses
- reports
- doctoral theses
- **articles**
- books
- conferences

} Quality control
often *organized*
by publishers



Quality control process

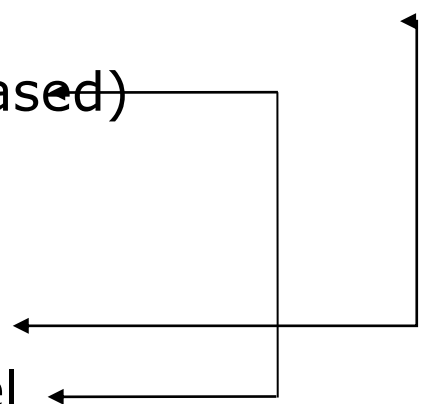


Publishers



- add value by
 - registration
 - *organizing* quality control
 - presentation
 - branding

 - distribute publications
 - limited (toll gated; paper based)
 - unlimited (open access; internet based)

 - operate a
 - monopoly based access fee model
 - market based publication fee model
 - (+ third party contribution: subsidy, ads)
- 



The quality construct

Impactology: managers believe that journal impact is a measure of journal and author quality.

Impact = $\frac{\# \text{ all citations}}{\# \text{ 'real articles'}}$ over a period of time

citations = f (article age, # authors, discipline, journal type & size, item type, accessibility, citation cartels, but not self citations, ornamental citations and ... *quality*)

'real articles' = articles, reviews, proceedings, but no news items, letters to editor, editorials. (-> 'impact officers')

period: typically 2 years, but also 4 or 5 years.



Michael Mabe, then Elsevier's Director of Academic Relations:

" Extending the use of the journal impact factor from the journal to the authors of papers in the journal is highly suspect;[impact factors] are not a direct measure of quality and must be used with considerable care."

If this was said in the instruction of a product, would you buy it? **Research managers do.**

Why?

Does it ring a bell?



What, in the stem cell research fraud case, is the name of

- the author? **Hwang Woo-Suk**
- his university? **National University of Seoul**
- the journal? **Science**
- the publisher? **American Association for the Advancement of Science, AAAS**
- the reviewers? **Anonymous**

Who is responsible?

THE ULTIMATE CONTRACT



Sign on the dotted line!

ACME CO.

You, [YOUR NAME HERE], hereby grant the entire, complete rights to everything you've ever thought, made, or done to Acme Co. in perpetuity and throughout the Universe; and even if one day they find a door in the Universe that leads to a whole new non-Universe place, or somebody invents a time-stopping machine so that "perpetuity" no longer exists, or everything falls into a black hole and nobody knows which end is up and we're all dead anyway, so who cares—we'll STILL own all those rights, so stop whining, sign or don't sign, but face reality for once in your life, because this is the way the world works, pal.

YOUR SIGNATURE HERE

What the hell is that?
I dunno
I'm going to throw in my report card and find out!

R. Chaz

Copyright combat



A multi-coloured field: [SHERPA/RoMEO](#)

Main colours:

- white publishers require copyrights allow nothing
- yellow publishers require copyrights allow open preprints
- blue publishers require copyrights allow open postprints
- green publishers require copyrights allow open preprints and postprints
- embargo periods and reuse conditions vary greatly
- changes or exceptions can often be negotiated by authors
- gold publishers waive copyrights (open access journals)

There are more copyright policies than publishers
I n c o m p r e h e n s i b l e t o a u t h o r s !

Author and institutes alike



want their articles

1. published in a high impact journal

As high impact is perceived as high quality this is important for research project financing and personal career.

2. widely circulated and reused

Both for ethical reasons (public money means open access to society, colleagues, educators) and personal reasons (more citations).

3. easy to present

In CV's, lists, web sites, readers, eduware etc.

4. preserved and kept accessible perpetually

Being protected against digital vulnerability

**Signing away copyrights to achieve 1.
often conflicts with achieving goals 2. and 3.**



Time to act

The main commercial publishers won't act

They cherish the classical publishing model as their golden goose

Authors did act

They signed massively the PLoS open letter and the EC petition

Research funders are acting

Wellcome Trust, RCUK's, DFG, MPG, CERN, ERC, NIH, Harvard, ...

Policy makers are acting

*US Senate and Congress, Council of the European Union, OECD,
Australian Research Council, EURAB, Dutch Cabinet, ...*

What is ~~W~~ ~~L~~ ~~R~~ ~~W~~aiting for?

` For quality of life ` open



Imagine a call for proposals.

"Annually, WUR produces N articles in (sub) discipline Y . A consortium comprising WUR, the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, NWO wants to tender the reviewing process for these articles under the following conditions:

- 1. The reviewing process must be independent, rigorous and swift.*
- 2. The reviewing may be anonymous, named or open (to be decided on).*
- 3. All N articles will pass the reviewing process.*
- 4. As a result of the reviewing the articles are marked 1 to 5.*
- 5. Articles with marks 3 to 5 are accepted for posting in the Wageningen institutional repository and for immediate open publishing in [Wageningen Yield 2.0](#) (in WUR house style).*
- 6. Subsequently authors may publish their articles in any journal.*

` For quality of life ` open (cont'd)



Imagine a call for proposals.

7. *In their appraisal procedures for staff and research projects members of the consortium will weigh articles with marks 3, 4 and 5 as if they were published in journals with impact factors 3, 8 and 15 respectively (figures are nominal and subject to disciplinary calibration).*
8. *The national library of the Netherlands will take care of the long term curation of the accepted articles.*

Proposals for a three year contract should be sent toThe allocation of the contract will be based on the best price-performance ratio."

Fantasizing



about:

- potential other consortium partners like Purdue, Chinese Academy, Pretoria,
- the position of publishers like BioMed Central, Springer, learned societies, will there be a deal at the end of the day?
- an answer to the question

Can the library be a publisher?

i.e. at which side of the table Wageningen UR Library might sit: proposal (co-)submitter or (co-)reviewer



What do you think?

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