

Outcompeting Gold

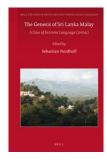
Sebastian Nordhoff 2018-06-26, Radical Open Access, Coventry Language Science Press



Linguistics

-) General linguistics a comparatively small field
- > 25 000 linguists worldwide
-) Books and articles
-) Books at 100-200 EUR
- > Books sell <200 copies

Sebastian Nordhoff



- > PhD 2009, Universiteit van Amsterdam
- A grammar of Upcountry Sri Lanka Malay
- The genesis of Sri Lanka Malay (Brill, 2012)
- Linked data in Linguistics (with Christian Chiarcos and Sebastian Hellmann, Springer, 2012)
-) Electronic grammaticography (University of Hawai'i Press, 2012)
- Since 2014 coordinator for Language Science Press



Language Science Press

-) monographs and edited volumes
-) CC-BY
- > 20 series, 160 editorial board members worldwide
- > 70 published books, 350 expressions of interest
-) up to >20.000 downloads per book
-) open access, open source, open data
- consortial funding: 101 institutions worldwide for 1000 EUR/year via Knowledge Unlatched
-) community-based publisher
 - > community proofreading
 - advisory board
 - > series editors meeting

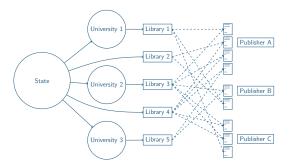




Language Science Press

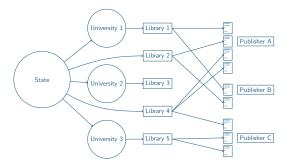


Flow of money in a reader-pays model



- > Every title is paid for by multiple institutions
-) Unclear, how much money the publisher makes





- > Every title is paid for by exactly one institution
- > Revenue of publisher is absolutely clear and transparent



-) buyer and seller are clearly identifiable in a Golden setup
- buyers will shop around
-) bang for the buck
-) monitoring: min, max, average, median
-) prediction: service providers for selecting the "right" journal.

The Golden Threat for books

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> price tag
> easier to get 10 * 1000 EUR APCs than 1 * 10.000 EUR BPC
> or 100 * 100 with reader-pays
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- > standardization
 -) "A book costs 5000 EUR, period"
 -) once the vocabulary is established, ideas outside of that vocabulary become difficult to express







picture with anecdote



Principles for successful collaborative publishing platforms

-) attribution
- brands
- > calculations



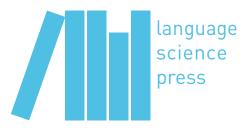
Attribution

- People want to belong
- Recognition is a powerful incentive
- Division of labour
 - community-based effort senior academics do reviewing; junior academics do
 - community proofreading





-) Understand prestige
- You got 1 shot
-) Protect your brand
 -) Registration
 - Mainly defensive, not offensive



Calculations

-) know your product.
 - What is it exactly that you provide?
 -) Why is it valuable?
 - Valuable to whom?
-) Know the resources required
 - \ know-how
 -) technology
 -) staff
 -) funding
- > self-exploitation is not a business model!
-) share your data!

The following concepts are related, but distinct:

- Ownership of the means of production (capitalism)
- State intervention in the economy (neoliberalism)
- > Business calculations (accountancy)
- Standardization of products (commodification)
- Competition/collaboration

OA metallurgy according to JS Caux

> Gold [Au]

APC-based financing

> Platinum [Pt]

-) no charges for authors (APCs, submission charges or any other)
- funded through a consortial scheme or equivalent

> Palladium [Pd]

- purely not-for-profit public enterprise
-) none of the activities generate any profit
-) all financial statements are publicly disclosed



https://jscaux.org/blog/ post/2017/09/20/ noble-metals-noble-cause/



OpenAire project: Full disclosure





	16	17	18	19	20	22	25	27	46	48	49	50
2017_01	23	36	18	39	53	152	779	0	594	49	62	24
2017_02	9	60	42	22	61	172	460	0	565	122	83	27
2017_03	33	69	50	38	53	278	434	0	585	226	102	65
2017_04	23	44	51	24	36	171	276	0	472	134	46	45
2017_05	16	49	42	53	65	142	673	0	506	119	45	31
2017_06	13	36	20	84	52	170	524	14	407	114	347	15
2017_07	13	38	39	73	64	76	713	5	297	83	36	14
2017_08	20	60	44	61	50	99	684	0	231	161	63	47
2017_09	11	46	14	18	45	181	224	0	297	55	42	26
2017_10	31	43	30	39	38	91	272	0	439	99	34	48
2017_11	22	84	37	28	91	122	304	0	486	158	80	33
2017 12	17	199	45	63	55	118	246	48	327	90	75	39



-) Bottom line: LangSci books cost 3-4k€ total
- Various studies report costs of 10-35k€ per book for reader-pays models.

LangSci



- > Publishers should watch their figures
- Collaborative publishers should disclose their figures
- Nice result: the figures actually show that collaboration outcompetes competition.