

# **Meta-Journal Club: the** knowledge dissemination models of the future

# Motivation

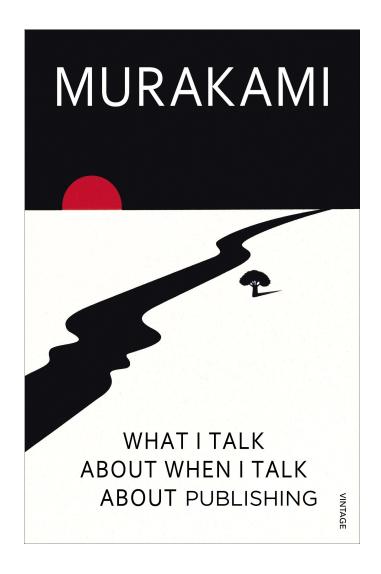


- Desire to become more active in the MetaResearch space:
  - ? Where do we publish our work?
    - ? What are we publishing (what do the artefacts of metaresearch look like?)?
  - Where do we present our work?

opportunity to imagine bespoke workshop, conference, and journal forms tailored to the needs of the field and its participants

# The Traditional Model 🔒





- 1. Draft a manuscript
- 2. send it to a conference committee or editorial committee
- 3. peer review



#### **ShitMyReviewersSay** @YourPaperSucks · <u>Feb 19</u>

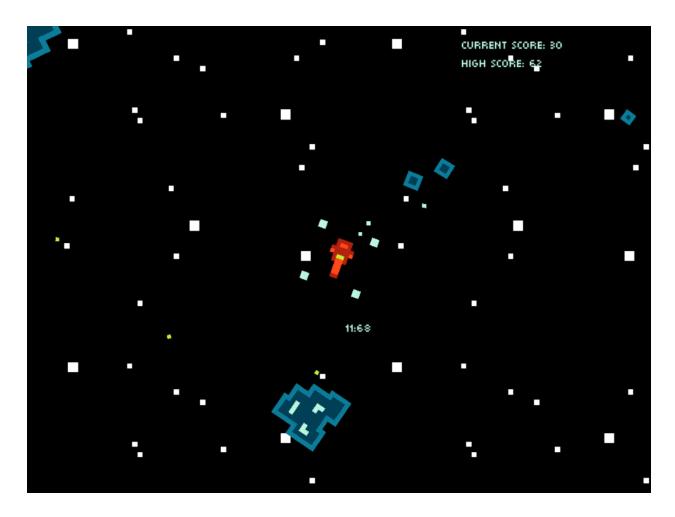
"I urge the authors to not publish this article anywhere, as it will impede the progress of scientific understanding."



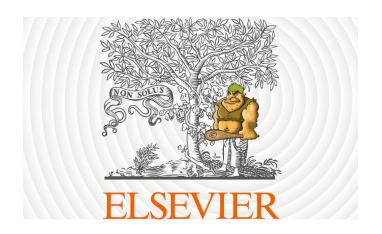
### **ShitMyReviewersSay** @YourPaperSucks · Nov 12, 2020

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'The text is overly expansive, desultory, and often diaphanous, so that the raison d'être of an overarching theoretical structure is neither pellucid nor convincing.'

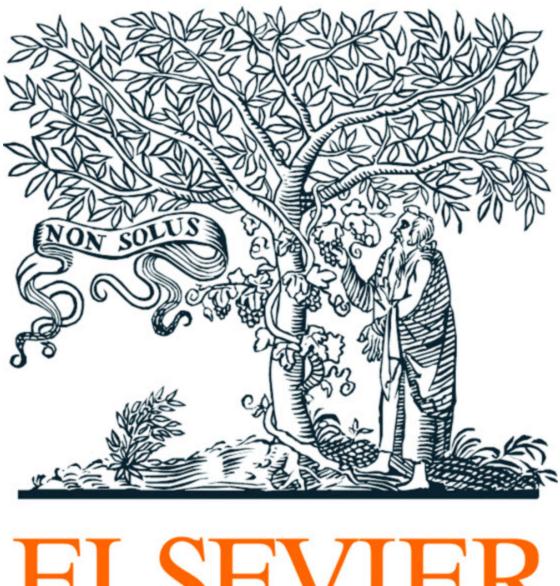


4. publication in a journal or *Proceedings* volume



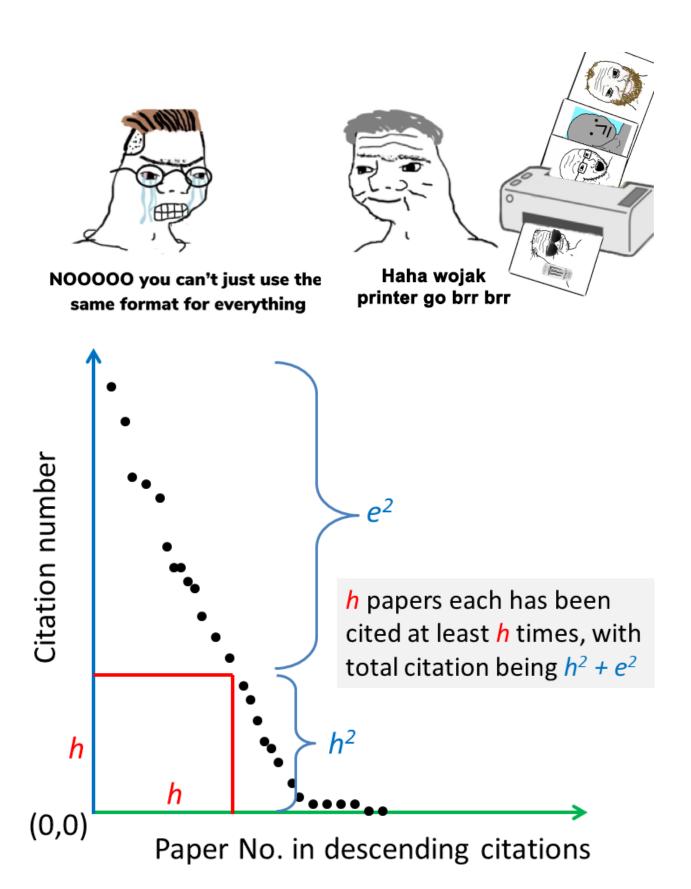


# 5. gatekeeping & gatecrashing



"When someone shows you who they are, believe them"

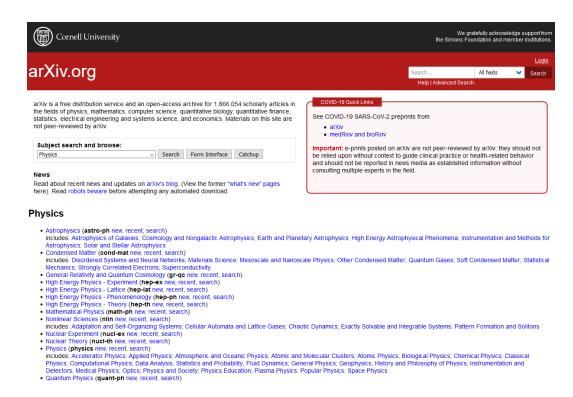
5. citation counter go brrr...?



# New Ideas 💡

# **Preprint Servers & Overlay Journals**

The ArXiv 🕸

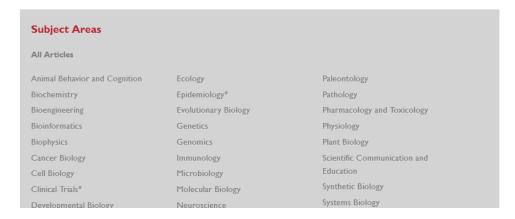




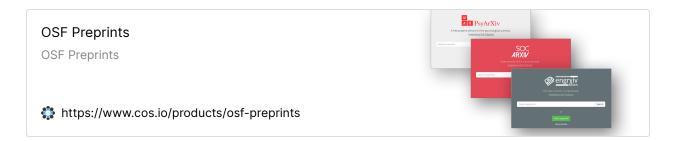




COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 preprints from medRxiv and bioRxiv



#### **OSF Preprints**



#### **Discrete Analysis**

#### Discrete Analysis

Discrete Analysis is a mathematical journal with an emphasis on areas of mathematics that are broadly related to additive combinatorics.

https://discreteanalysisjournal.com/

"What I think could work is something like a cross between the arXiv, a social networking site, Amazon book reviews, and Mathoverflow" - Tim Gowers

#### **Pubpeer**

#### **PubPeer**

Comments awaiting moderation ({{totalComments}}) Review last reports ({{totalReports}}) Review last email suggestions ({{totalPendingEmails}}) Last month's whitelisted comments ({{totalWhitelistedComments}})

https://pubpeer.com/publications/peeriodicals

A peeriodical is a lightweight virtual journal with you as the Editor-in-chief, giving you complete freedom in setting editorial policy to select the most interesting and useful manuscripts for your readers. The manuscripts you will evaluate and select are existing publications—preprints and papers. Thus, a peeriodical replicates all the functions of a traditional journal, including discovery, selection and certification, except publication itself.

#### Peeriodicals

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https://peeriodicals.com/

#### eLife

"publish, then review"

#### **Questions**

- · how do you incentivize reviewing?
- how do you curate and give broad signals of quality?
- how do you get the useful information from reviews into the public sphere in a way that satisfies both reviewers and writers?
- does the Unjournal still work if there's more than one site (does it require some sort of centralization)?

### The Unconference

What is a Conference For? \*



line on your cv that proves you got past the bouncers

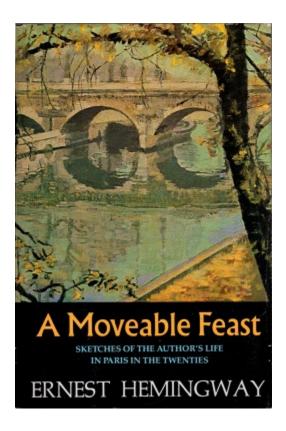
- the chance to present work in progress
- chance to talk with other "clubgoers" about ideas that are not ready for public consumption

#### Barath's idea

"what if there were an arxiv un-conference (probably per area), where people can do short talks about arxiv papers; those interested will go read the papers. Peer review then moves (effectively) from time of publication to time of citation. This also decouples the roles of publication and community gathering that exist today with CS conferences "

+ a "human mining reward" for curation

### A Moveable Feast





What tools do we need to build our Moveable Feast?

## **Notes from Journal Club discussion:**

- community formation important
- how do you make it fun? optimize for fun-ness?
- NBER science of science funding conference:
  - real-time critique of papers while authors in the room
  - papers written in open, high quality, but take time to publish
- potential problems if conference scope too broad community formation,
  lonely researchers at the edge of the venue like wallflowers at a dance ....
- things that run too long are definitely not fun

- how to incentivize conciseness and clarity?
- a journal with a character limit?
- pico-reports?
- how can we make micropubs more micro what's in between a micropub and a database entry?
- science fair in gather.town?
- how can you publish a citable graph that describes your motivation?
- aggregate stuff, aggregate authorship
- add a license to your graph to help with authorship and reuse rights
- you need a group of humans or a machine to ensure quality
  - how much of this can be automated?
  - you can't really spot errors at the boundaries of a field until you have solved much of that field
  - can a student be a reviewer? how expensive is reviewer training & screening?
  - where do we register these things (micropublications, unjournal articles)?
    are we going to use dois forever?
    - arxiv doesn't use dois they have arXiv IDs
    - computable graph could aggregate CIDs raw data composed modules publication

#### From Cindy Wu:

- Where will researchers register their work? What is the spiritual successor to DOI?
- How do we build tooling to keep people kind and honest in synchronous and asynchronous discussions?
- Looking beyond the PDF, what types of mediums need to be supported? Is there a finite list of file types?

- How can the community incentivize conciseness and clarity? Why has the academy failed to incentivize conciseness and clarity?
- What dictates when peer-review starts? Can peer-review be initiated at the time when another human finds the work useful? (A decade could elapse between time of publication and start of peer-review)
- The working papers model is pervasive in the economics community?
  Where else is it used? What makes researchers love it? What makes researchers hate it?
- In a future where anyone can produce scientific artifacts (like art, music, code) what will be the role of the curator? What makes a great science curator? Could curation of science be a full-time job?