

## Should I click the button?

Last year [I wished you all a Happy Open Access day](#) and wondered if I should accept an invitation to write an article for a toll-access publication. The few comments I got on the blog and in person basically said go ahead and get my stuff out there, which I did, now all I have to do is wait. And wait. You can read the [blog post about OAI-ORE](#) that inspired the offer, though.

This year I was asked to write an article for another publisher. The paper has been written and submitted and accepted. As they charmingly put it:

A final disposition of "Accept" has been registered for the above-mentioned manuscript.

I have been invited to complete a few administrative tasks, including agreeing to the Journal Publishing Agreement. Basically this gives the publisher my copyright. I get the right to use my version for scholarly purposes, which means that I can post it here and stick it in [ePrints](#) at USQ and put it in a thesis, and even turn it into a book if I follow some conditions. Fair enough, I knew what I was getting into when I agreed to write the thing. I have to do it Elsevier's way to get the prestige that goes with their brand.

Hang on! Elsevier?

The same [Elsevier which published fake journals](#)?

Will they use my, sorry their, paper to sell drugs? Or Microsoft Word?

I'm inclined to go ahead and click the button, because this is a chance for me to go through the process and see what it's like. See how much value the editors add. See what the final product looks like. Use what I learn to work on [Journal 2.0](#).

I don't expect that toll-access journals are going to be at all relevant to the kind of work I do before too long, so this will be something to tell the grandkids about, how I wrote something for nothing and then gave the exploitation rights to a large corporation.

On the other hand, maybe I should stage a sit-in.

So, should I or should I not click the button that says Accept Agreement? Comments open below.

They do have a detailed explanation about [why they need exclusive rights](#) which is all about how people trust them. Right.

I think that the model where academia pays multiple times for their own work is so patently absurd, and the [alternatives are working so well](#) that this way of doing business will die.