UC & Journals
A briefing from the UC Libraries

Jeff MacKie-Mason
University Library
Professor, School of Information and Professor of Economics
UC Berkeley

UCB Academic Senate Division Meeting
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UC’s goals in new pilots with journal publishers

- **For UC:** Constrain rapidly escalating journal costs
- **For UC authors:** Make it easier to publish open access and retain copyright to your work; maintain flexibility in how and where to publish
- **For the advancement of knowledge:** Accelerate new discoveries by making all UC research freely available immediately
- **For the future:** Advance a more open and sustainable scholarly publishing ecosystem
Context for this briefing

Elsevier journals contract expires on Dec. 31
  • Negotiations unlikely to conclude by then

We are briefing you because:
  • Proposal breaks from the status quo
  • Access to a small percentage of Elsevier content may be delayed for faculty and students
  • Possible media attention
UC Libraries & Elsevier
CONTEXT FOR THE 2018 NEGOTIATION
Key issues with the current Elsevier relationship

• **Prohibitively high cost for subscription**
  - 25% of annual systemwide journals budget

• **In addition**
  - Open access fees paid by UC authors: $800,000

• **Elsevier double-dips**
  - Subscriptions + open access fees for the same journals
Library cost index vs. revenue / student (2010-18)

NB: Library cost index is wtd. avg. of labor and materials cost
# Open access progress after 25 years

## Open Access Publishing: Top Ranking Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>% OA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>Rice University</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California, San Diego</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Dartmouth College</td>
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<td>University of Washington, Seattle</td>
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<td>Duke University</td>
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<td>Washington University in St. Louis</td>
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<td>University of Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California, Berkeley</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>Northwestern University</td>
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<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>University of Virginia</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
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<td>University of Southern California</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
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Analysis by Lokman I. Meho, American University Beirut
Why now and with Elsevier?

1. Because of who Elsevier is and how they do business.
2. Because of who UC is and what we stand for.
3. Because of the global movement gathering.
4. Because of the critical leverage that UC has.
1. Why now and with Elsevier?

Because of who Elsevier is and how they do business.

- **2017 revenues**: $3.2 billion
  - 7% higher than 2016
  - 20% higher than 2015

- **Market share**: 17% of peer-reviewed journal articles worldwide

- **Profit margin**: 40% or more for journals
2 Why now and with Elsevier?

Because of who UC is and what we stand for.

As a public institution sustained by taxpayer and extramural funding, UC has an obligation:

- To facilitate the broadest possible access to UC-generated work
- To steward our budget responsibly
3 Why now and with Elsevier?

Because of the global movement gathering.

We are not alone in this fight.
- **OA2020** global initiative: 100+ signatories in 25 countries

Europe is battling with Elsevier and subscription-based publishing.
- Germany’s **Projekt DEAL**, **Bibsam Sweden**, Finland’s “**No deal, no review**”, **Plan S**, EU’s **Horizon 2020**

For the industry to transform, North American institutions (42% of Elsevier’s revenue) must get involved.
4

Why now and with Elsevier?

Because the UC has critical leverage.

- UC accounts for **nearly 10%** of all US research output.

- UC affiliates occupy more than **1,600** Elsevier advisory and/or editorial board positions.
UC Negotiation Details
Proposal:

A UC-designed open access agreement

- Integrate subscription fees with open access fees (APCs)
- All UC corresponding-author articles would be open access by default
- The cost to publish open access is shared between the institution and UC authors (rather than borne solely by authors)
Proposal:

**Significant reduction in UC total expenditure (subscription + open access publishing fees)**

- Reduced subscription fee
- Reduced article processing charge (for open access articles), similar to agreements secured in Europe
What will happen if: 
**UC’s negotiation with Elsevier is successful?**

**For UC:**
- Immediate cost reduction
- Open access publication by default for articles with UC corresponding author
- Ongoing cost control

**Nationally and globally:**
- Tipping point in bringing about **productive and sustainable open access**
- UC takes a **leadership role** in transforming the scholarly communication industry
What will happen if:
UC’s negotiation with Elsevier is successful?

**For authors:** If article accepted, default is open access publication.

**Open access fee:**
- Author has 3 choices:
  a. pay *discounted* author *share* with research funds
     - 87% of UCB articles in Elsevier acknowledge grant funds
  b. **OR:** if research funds insufficient, library will cover cost
  c. **OR:** opt out and publish this article as subscription-only

- **Library shares** open access fees: use savings from lower subscription fees to cover open access costs
What will happen if:  
UC walks away from the Elsevier negotiation?

- UC owns **permanent access** to most existing Elsevier content:
  - 86% of the articles we currently license, representing 95% of UC’s use

- Access to a small percentage of new Elsevier journal content on ScienceDirect may be **delayed**; other Elsevier products not affected

- UC will have systemwide processes and funds prepared in advance to secure **access to needed content** for UC scholars
Discussion