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Partner Response to Open Access Publishing Negotiations in Europe

by Caroline Winter | 10 July 2018 | English, Observations and Responses, Responses | 0 comments



Lisez-le en français

This response to the [Open Access Publishing Negotiations in Europe](#) observation was written by [Richard Dumont](#), Directeur général des bibliothèques, [Université de Montréal](#).

OA in Europe

Some European countries are trying to make progress, but unfortunately, the solution they advocate often revolves around agreements like the big deal, publish & read, read and publish, etc. These countries want the national license to include free circulation of articles published by national authors.

This seems to me to be a faulty solution that risks doing more harm than good. In this respect, I completely share the opinion of Richard Poynder: [OA Big Deals] Allow large legacy publishers to lock their high prices into the new OA environment, while marginalising and excluding the new-entrants that were supposed to disrupt the market. Unless something changes, therefore, the affordability problem will only be perpetuated. (Richard Poynder, *The Open Access Big Deal: Back to the Future*, March 28, 2018).


The mistake is in promoting the sustainability of commercial publishers rather than truly investing in establishing a scholarly communication system that is consistent with academic values, including the

sharing of knowledge.

Ideally, these systems will combine the advantages offered by the commercial publishers (search capability, long-term preservation, quality metadata, journal revenue) and those of an open system (free distribution of knowledge, transparent costs, open governance, etc.). This will result in savings and a reduction in academic dependence on commercial publishers.

The objective is certainly ambitious, but it's the spirit that drives the Canadian coalition Publi.ca (<https://www.coalition-publi.ca/>) that was created in 2017. As Seneca said: it's not because things are difficult that we do not dare, but because we do not dare that things are difficult.

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