



# OxFOSS

Oxford Forum of Open Scholarship

Welcome to our in-person conference day

Wednesday 4 March 2026, 10:00-18:00



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#OxFOS26



# OxFOSS

Oxford Forum of Open Scholarship

Helping researchers navigate 'open':  
Communities and reforms

Wednesday 4 March 2026



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#OxFOS26

# A Poetics of Infrastructural Salvage

A Better University is Possible

Dan Rudmann, PhD & Anthony J. Bruder, PhD  
Utrecht University Library

1.

Frame the Problem

f a i l u r e



o f

n o t i n a g d m i  
t o t u s p u i s g a m i





II.

Cooperative Open University Publishing

# Cooperative Open University Publishing

1. The maturity of our digital infrastructure;
2. Widespread literacy of publishing processes and their ethical implications;
3. New forms and content for scholarly publishing;
4. Emerging landscape of people at knowledge organisations (e.g. data and publishing stewards, ethics officers, designers, community managers, etc.)



OSDU

Publishing

# Outro: *Ceci N'est Pas Une Presse*



It is important to note that in undertaking these actions, OSCU is not positioning itself as a press. This is because what it means to be a press in science in 2025 does not correlate with the perspective, mission, and pursuit of OSCU Publishing. A look across the present industry reveals that publishing has become both a fraught and listless act for scientific communities.

Impact factors, author fees, [transformative agreements](#), colour/mineral codes, an unending labyrinth of pressures and fear on the ways in which we might select the venue for our work does significant harm to scientific exploration and communication. As a result, we have an incomprehensible volume of publications, colliding with growing latency in production processes, and a crumbling system for peer review, all of which ensures that our academic contributions will rarely be read or engaged with in a meaningful manner. Scholarly publishing has become a site of [surveillance](#), monopolisation, and control.

It does not have to be this way.

The people at knowledge organisations deserve greater literacy and agency within the processes of publishing. The work of OSCU Publishing is as much to facilitate publishing projects as it is to provide education and accessibility on an activity that is integral to, yet too long alienated from, scholarship.

We assert that by wresting the power of publishing into the hands of the people who act themselves as the infrastructure for science and progress, rather than those who extract from it, we can imagine [mutually beneficial systems](#), rebuild trust between institutions and society, and generate more inclusive and vibrant forms of scholarly exploration and participation.



III.

Library School





**LIBRARY  
SCHOOL**



Cooperative Open  
University Publishing

# LIBRARY SCHOOL

Cooperative Open  
University Publishing

OSCU  
Publishing



# LIBRARY SCHOOL

Cooperative Open  
University Publishing



# LIBRARY SCHOOL

Utopian  
Scholarstic  


Cooperative Open  
University Publishing

**OSCU**  
Publishing

**CORR  
ESPOND**

**RADIO  
collegia**



# LIBRARY SCHOOL

Utopian  
Scholarstic  


Cooperative Open  
University Publishing

OSCU  
Publishing

CORR  
ESPOND

RADIO  
collegia

?

The Institute for  
Human Sciences



# IV.

A Poetics of Infrastructural Salvage

**UNIVERSITAS**

**RETELLING THE NARRATIVE OF THE UNIVERSITY IS REIMAGINING GOVERNANCE**



Grown-ups often tell you to  
choose one of two things.



But if neither of them seems right . . .



It's okay to find something new on your own!

*There Must Be More Than That*  
by Shinsuke Yoshitake

# A Poetics of Infrastructural Salvage

A Better University is Possible

Dan Rudmann, PhD & Anthony J. Bruder, PhD  
Utrecht University Library



**Who Governs our Knowledge (Production)?  
Authors and Ownership in Open Access Publishing**

**Dr. Kira Hopkins  
Kevin Sanders**



**And we all lived happily ever after**

# How did we get *here*?

## A call to action

### 1. Academia resumes control of publishing

*Action:* Convert for-profit to sustainable non-profit publishing models, where the academic community owns the journals' titles and authors retain the copyright, e.g. using open access models.

*Responsible:* Editors, libraries, scholarly academies and other scientific organizations, with the support of funders.

### 2. Incentive systems to merit quality, not quantity

*Action:* End incentives for mass production of low-quality articles and the use of citation metrics in a 'publish or perish' culture of a reputation economy; focus on quality, not quantity, in hiring, tenure and funding decisions.

*Responsible:* Members of committees who decide on hiring, promotion and grants at universities, research or funding organizations.

### 3. Independent fraud detection and prevention

*Action:* Detect, sanction and register publishing corruption and 'fraud tag' fake articles, paper mills that produce fake articles and journals that publish them. Use validated quality/integrity markers to detect fake articles.

*Responsible:* Sleuths and fraud-monitoring organizations that are independent, i.e. not funded by publishers.

### 4. Legislation and policies to protect science quality and integrity

*Action:* Draft and implement legislation and regulations (checks and balances) to detect and penalize individual and industry-scale fraud, such as fake publications by paper mills, to protect academic integrity.

*Responsible:* National and international legislative bodies, governments and funders.

# A hagiography of 20<sup>th</sup> C. commercial scholarly publishing





“scientific norms at the time viewed scientific publishing as a public good that should not be subject to profit motives, Maxwell understood that scientific publishing was a market unlike others because there was an almost ceaseless growth of demand, and free labor.”

(Neff, 2020)

“The beauty of the business was that the books and journals they produced had a captive readership: every library, every university, every scientific institute, wanted a copy. What’s more, the scientists who wrote these books and journals were so thrilled to see their work in print that they scarcely expected to be paid anything in return.”

(Preston, 2021)



**OA policies in the Global Minority are frequently implemented about scholars without substantive engagement *with* scholars.**

**If we compare this with approaches in Latin America, we can see there are viable and established alternatives.**



“OA policy has [...] been driven by a free-market ideology based on the idea that rational individuals making self-interested choices will lead to better cultures of publishing than government regulation or other interventions.”

(Moore, 2025)





“This is not to say that APC-based gold OA is the only model for OA policymaking, but more that its impacts were so significant that they allowed publishers to reorient their business models entirely towards APCs and transformative agreements.”

(Moore, 2025)

”shift the terrain [...] from a defensive position — reacting to elite policies and practices or merely offering dissent — to an offensive one — contesting ruling structures and offering workable alternatives. Movements need to shift from a position of resistance to one of active transformation.”

(Shantz, 2018)



# Author Rights, Ownership, and AI: A Cautionary Tale

## Academic authors 'shocked' after Taylor & Francis sells access to their research to Microsoft AI

NEWS JUL 19, 2024 BY MATILDA BATTERSBY

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/academic-authors-shocked-after-taylor--francis-sells-access-to-their-research-to-microsoft-ai>



ChronicleOfHigherEd OP · 2y ago

If an academic publisher sells your paper and data to an artificial-intelligence model, is that exploitation? This is what some scholars are arguing after the news that two publishers — Wiley and Taylor & Francis — have made a partnerships with tech companies to train AI. Scholars say this move further perpetuates a long history of unpaid labor in higher education.

Benjamin P. Geisler @ben-geisler.com · 6mo

↳ Replied to Benjamin P. Geisler

👉 Microsoft just paid \$10M to Taylor & Francis

Them and Wiley & Taylor made \$75M+ from AI deals in 2024 alone.

What's the IP and consent situation?

Authors usually do not have a chance to opt out of the work becoming AI fodder

🗨️ 🔄 ❤️ 📌 📤 ⋮



Dr Ruth Alison Clemens

@RuthieClems

Just found out that Taylor & Francis has sold access to all @routledgebooks data to Microsoft to train their AI. This includes my publications. I get no payment for using my research labour, never mind the bigger problems of this energy-intensive extractivism...

3:37 AM · 2024-07-17 · 97K Views

721 Reposts 105 Quotes

1,433 Likes 199 Bookmarks



## Two Major Academic Publishers Signed Deals With AI Companies. Some Professors Are Outraged.



By Christa Dutton

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/academic-authors-shocked-after-taylor--francis-sells-access-to-their-research-to-microsoft-ai>

# Who Owns the Work?



## Copyright in subscription articles

For an article published in a subscription journal, as with an open access article, Taylor & Francis will validate, produce, disseminate, and act as steward in the long-term curation of the article. Taylor & Francis may also handle re-use requests. In the subscription model, the author receives these services for free, and instead Taylor & Francis recoups its investment in the above services by selling access to the content. In order to achieve this, the owner of the applicable journal (e.g. a learned society or Taylor & Francis) typically requires a transfer or "assignment" of the copyright in the article.

<https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/moving-through-production/copyright-for-journal-authors/>





# A broader context of behaviour

replication crisis in scientific publishing to justify political intervention in selected research fields. Meanwhile, a small group of multinational corporations extracts extraordinary profits from the legal component of this publicly funded system. These profits are not abstract. Billions have flowed into data-driven surveillance technologies—some of which are now monetized through the resale of data to government agencies such as ICE in the United States. With profit margins exceeding 40 percent, not only such strategic acquisitions but also executive compensation kept growing over the decades. Without library funds for Pergamon press, the daughter of publishing giant Robert Maxwell, Ghislaine Maxwell, probably would have never come even close to Jeffrey Epstein. Over the

POLICY 13 FEB 2025

## Elsevier parent company reports 10% rise in profit, to £3.2bn

By Craig Nicholson


Share    

“The well-worn cliché is that one should not waste a crisis. The sector’s financial position allows us to think carefully about what we want from a scholarly communication system.

How can we construct a system less reliant on large publishers and big deals and more aligned with the values of openness, equity and being led from and centred on academia?”


(David Prosser, executive director of Research Libraries UK, Research Professional News 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2025)

<https://bjoern.brembs.net/2026/02/after-decades-of-debating-the-scientific-publishing-crisis-the-time-as-come-to-decide/>

 **Kevin Sanders**  
@kjsanders.bsky.social




As a reminder RELX have financial, operational, and strategic ties to Palantir: [theintercept.com/2019/11/14/...](https://theintercept.com/2019/11/14/)

Libraries continue to fund & service the global surveillance apparatus. This is probably not what Illich had in mind when he described the library as “the prototype of a convivial tool.”



**Legal Scholars to LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters: Stop Helping ICE**  
Universities and immigration lawyers should not be funding data brokers who ultimately endanger future clients, says a new petition.

[theintercept.com](https://theintercept.com)

7:48 PM · Feb 18, 2026    Everybody can reply



# What to look out for in a publisher

## Who owns what? Who owns the copyright?

- Are you being asked to sign a Copyright Transfer Agreement? Or any particular rights that cannot be easily explained (e.g. translation rights)?
- If it is OA on a Creative Commons licence, is it a variation you are happy with?
- Do they allow you to exercise rights retention over accepted manuscripts?

## Are there indications of care?

- Is there a long-term preservation policy on their website to future-proof your digital publications?
- Do they have a clearly outlined AI policy (regarding the use of AI by authors) that you are comfortable with?
- Do they have a clearly outlined publication ethics policy with guidance on what to do if you suspect misconduct?

# Governance

“this care-ful approach can be found in Open Book Collective’s governance. This approach to governance explicitly values the diversity and expertise of the community and centres this through their direct participation in the governance of the OBC. This exceeds service engagements and other forms of representation by including diverse communities entangled with OBC in the organisation’s strategic operations. We would welcome such participatory approaches to governance being explored in other contexts”

(Barnes et al., 2026)



# Governance in Action: the Case of AUP

## Unusual Business: A University Press Goes Private, And No One is the Wiser

August 25, 2019

<https://guygeltner.net/blog/unusual-business-a-university-press-goes-private>

## Editors stage mass resignation after academic publisher sold

Amsterdam University Press series editors quit with open letter objecting to sale to for-profit publisher

Published on July 11, 2025

Last updated July 11, 2025

Emily Dixon

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/editors-stage-mass-resignation-after-academic-publisher-sold>

**Tina Harris** @tinahonjo.bsky.social · 8mo

Furious with the emails I just received informing us that AUP - and the Asian Borderlands book series that I've co-edited for years with Willem van Schendel - has been acquired by Taylor & Francis. None of us knew that this was in the works. But maybe after AUP privatisation in 2019, no surprise.

1



4



**Sarah Bendall** @sarahabendall.bsky.social · 8mo

Just got an email from Amsterdam uni press saying it (and thus my book) has been acquired by Taylor & Francis?? I'm confused, has it been acquired or is T&R just the distributor now? It seems like all the new editorial contacts are not AUP...

3



7



# Some useful resources

- Ithaka S+R Generative AI Agreement Tracker: <https://sr.ithaka.org/our-work/generative-ai-licensing-agreement-tracker/>
- Summary of the AI situation from the University of Saskatchewan library guide: <https://library.usask.ca/news/2024/Author-Rights-in-the-Age-of-Generative-AI.php>
- Oxford libguide on Author Rights <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/publishing/rights>
  - SPARC Author Addendum (around author rights retention) <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/author-rights/brochure-html/>
- IOI's Open Infrastructure Governance Report <https://investinopen.org/state-of-open-infrastructure-2024/sooi-governance-2024/>
  - Copim collected publications on community governance <https://archive.copim.ac.uk/workpackage/wp4/>

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# Images

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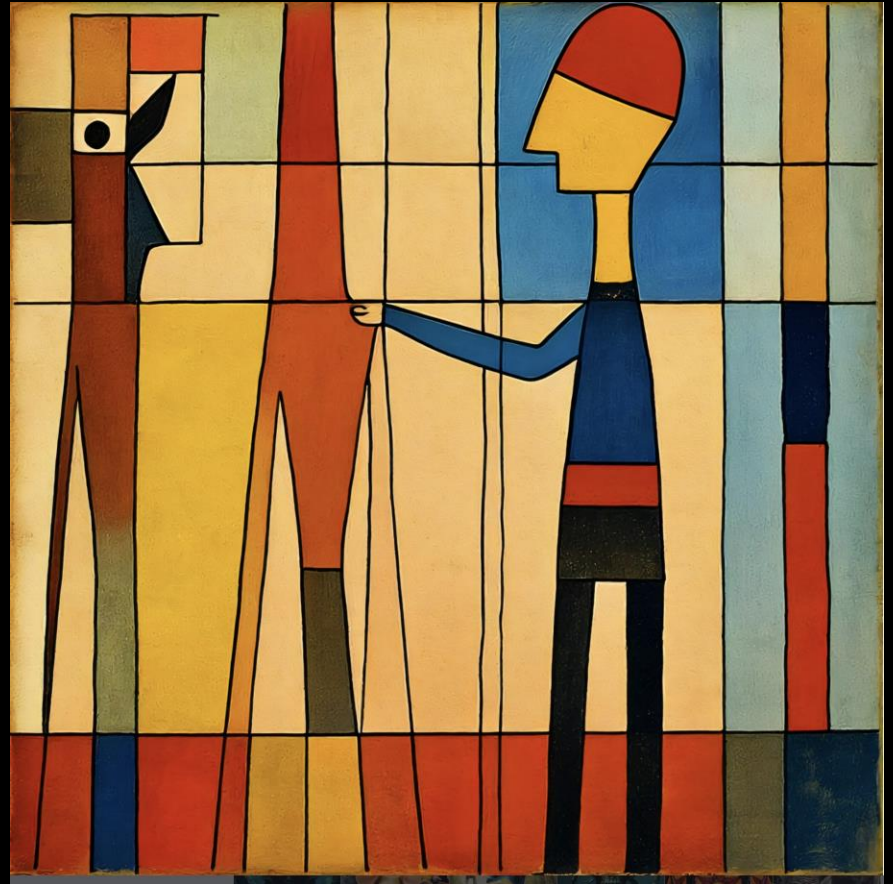
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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/66351465@N00/14051599276> (CC BY 2.0)

Arkell, K. (n.d.): [https://dl6pgk4f88hky.cloudfront.net/2021/05/2021\\_05\\_maxwell\\_2\\_new.jpg](https://dl6pgk4f88hky.cloudfront.net/2021/05/2021_05_maxwell_2_new.jpg)

*Share and  
Enjoy!*  
**Free/open  
licensing and AI**

Rowan Wilson  
4th March, 2026  
OxFOS



*Share and Enjoy!*



Photo by Michael Hughes - CC BY-SA 2.0  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6661797>

# Copyright

- Copyright law embodies society's desire to reward creation as a common good
- It does this by granting creators exclusive but time-limited economic rights over their creations (copying, adapting, distributing)
- It protects the expression, not the idea (idea/expression boundary)
  - Literal vs conceptual copying
- Infringement is judged in terms of 'substantiality' judged in terms of quality and quantity
- Most jurisdictions have a concept like 'Fair Use' that permits certain acts that would otherwise be infringing if they are societally beneficial and/or transformative

# Share and Enjoy

- Open development
  - Internet enables global sharing
  - Personal computing democratises the toolset (to some degree)
  - Low friction, one-to-many, open licensing facilitates this
  - Starts with Free and Open Source licensing in 1980s
  - Expands to other areas of copyright with Creative Commons, Open Data Commons etc
  - ‘Open’ and ‘Free’

# Free/Open Source Software Licensing

- FSF's four freedoms:
  - The freedom to **run the program** as you wish, **for any purpose** (freedom 0).
  - The freedom to **study how the program works**, and change it so it does your computing as you wish (freedom 1). *Access to the source code is a precondition for this.*
  - The freedom to **redistribute copies** so you can help others (freedom 2).
  - The freedom to **distribute** copies of your **modified versions** to others (freedom 3). *By doing this you can give the whole community a chance to benefit from your changes. Access to the source code is a precondition for this.*

# Free/Open Source Software Licensing (2)

- Strong emphasis in foundational writings (Stallman/FSF) on the link between personal freedom and access to source code in a technological society
  - If software is an interface between citizen and government, or is used to make decisions about citizens, access to the specifics of its operation is necessary to fully understand how one is governed
- Conditions that preserve freedom are attached to actions that need permission: “If you want to **adapt** and **distribute** my work, you must acknowledge me and make the resulting larger work available...”
- Strong associations with academic concepts of openness and reproducibility
- Working assumption that the conditions are necessary to preserve openness

# Free/Open Source Software Licensing (3)

- Permissive and Reciprocal (Copyleft/Sharealike)
  - Permissive: few conditions on adaptations / distributions (attribution mainly)
  - Reciprocal: distributed adaptations must be under same licence, *including additions*, attribution
- Practical enforcement of these ‘keep it open’ conditions:
  - *Does someone need my permission to do this?*
  - *If I don’t give permission and they do it anyway, will I ever know?*
  - *Is it cheap to enforce / globally uniform?*
- ***Distribution of code*** seen as the best visible and practical ‘hook’

# Adaptations: Open Hardware licences

- *Can we use the same open development processes to generate shared value in the hardware domain?*
  - CERN Open Hardware Licences – permissive, strong and weak copyleft variants
  - TAPR OHL - copyleft
  - Solderpad - permissive
  - OSHWA – Open Source Hardware Association – certification body
- Clear how the licence applies to the copyright elements – designs, diagrams
- Less clear how the licence applies to physical objects produced using the designs
- Wide variety of IPRs - design rights, patents, semiconductor masks
- **Problematic ‘hooks’/attachment**

# Adaptations: Ethical open source

- “The freedom to **run the program** as you wish, **for any purpose** (freedom 0).”
- What if I don’t want to facilitate some purposes?
  - 996 ICU license
  - Hippocratic License
  - At The Roots License
  - Licences tying grants to Codes of Conduct
  - Etc
- Use of ‘open source’ name controversial due to freedom 0 incompatibility
- Conditions for grant are hard to monitor, often duplicative of national legislation
- Will unethical licensees care about losing their copyright licence?
- **Problematic conditions**

# Open Source AI Problems

- Data is the core component of AI systems
- Data IPR is more complex and regionally variable than software copyright; *are facts ownable?*
- ‘Ownership’ often used to mean being the subject of personal data, rather than the owner of property
- Not clear whether ML model weights/parameters are ownable at all
  - Copyright questionable – *Getty Images vs Stability AI*
  - Database rights? Problematic, shoehorning
  - Instead usually controlled by contract / confidentiality / trade secrets, which are not practices that can be adapted easily to one-to-many open release\*

# What about RAILS?

- The general uncertainty of the IP status of ML models has created confusion over appropriate licensing
- 🤗 licence list is a combination of CC, FOSS and newly drafted Responsible AI Licences ('RAILs')
- RAILS try to impose complex conditions “behavioural-use clauses”
- RAILS conditions are attached to permissions rooted in copyright and patent licensing, when we are not at all sure models contain any copyright or patentable material
- RAIL licences arguably combine the problems with **conditions** of Ethical Open Source and problems with **attachment** of Open Hardware
- **Inadequate to preserve openness?**

# Counter-argument

- Some in the open source community have always argued that **enforcing** openness conditions is largely unnecessary
- By this argument
  - Cooperation is driven by mutual interest in common goals, not threat of withdrawal of rights
  - Acknowledgement of upstream work is driven by a desire to show esteemed provenance
  - Sharing new work back is driven by a desire to avoid the solo work of maintaining the compatibility of your additions with the future additions of others
- Sharing, adaptation and acknowledgement currently seem to be working as desired in open model sharing spaces, despite these putative licensing issues...
- “Freedom is free of the need to be free” – George Clinton

# Direction of travel

- Litigation has tended to focus on the training and output data
  - *Bartz vs Anthropic (US)* found infringement in the obtaining of pirated training data, not in the training itself
  - *Disney vs Midjourney (US) (ongoing)* largely concerns caching and sharing of potentially infringing model outputs
  - *Getty Images vs Stability AI (UK)* suggests that an efficiently trained model at no stage contains any infringing copies of its training data
- US law has tended to view web scraping of training data as Fair Use
- US law has reaffirmed its conclusion that model outputs are not subject to copyright as they are not human-originating
- UK law seems to be on a journey to join EU law in permitting web scraping with opt-outs

# Open as political

- Llama and open source as market disruption
- Release of powerful ‘open’ models (Deepseek, Kimi, Qwen etc) by Chinese entities - political and economic disruption, particularly in light of US sector dominance and trade restrictions on GPU hardware?
- Anthropic blog post (23/03/26) on ‘distillation attacks’ by Chinese entities releasing open models – using outputs from ‘stronger’ models to train weaker ones – likely a violation of Terms of Service but not IP infringement – calls for regulation / barriers
- EU AI Act, seeking to boost competitiveness with sector leaders, exempts ‘open’ models from some aspects of regulation, although some more esoteric RAIL responsibilities may conflict with EU definition of openness

# Academic vs commercial

- *Getty Images vs Stability AI (UK)* provides an interesting case study of open model release which is simultaneously academic and commercial
  - Initial release of Stable Diffusion image generation model via both (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich group) CompVis and Stability AI, a UK commercial company, also providing paid inference services
  - Training was accomplished using donated AWS resources from Stability AI, outside UK
  - Initial (and most problematic) release therefore not Stability AI's sole responsibility
- Academic collaboration / openness as a 'shield'

# Some possibly controversial assertions

- Ethical strictures in RAIL licences risk being misinterpreted as enforceable, introducing a false sense of security
- Concepts from traditional copyright will likely not help us to regulate the openness of AI models
  - ...at exactly the point where we need software freedom's societal concepts to work well
- Enlightened self-interest might make regulation unnecessary...
- If it doesn't, however, we may need to consider new, durable, global concepts in IPR around data ownership upon which to build

Thank you!



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RESEARCH

#OxFOS26

OxFOS  
2026

Thank you  
for coming



Still time to book!  
[go.glam.ox.ac.uk/OxFOS26](https://go.glam.ox.ac.uk/OxFOS26)

We'd love to  
hear what  
you thought  
of today's  
event

Thurs, 5th March, ONLINE 13:00-15:00,  
Cultivating FAIR data across disciplines

Fri, 6th March, ONLINE 11:00-12:00,  
How to do open research safely

Join the mail list to get the recordings  
Email: [oxfos-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:oxfos-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk)