

Review of: "[Commentary] Taking Back Control Over Academic Publications"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The commentary addresses a relevant problem of scholarly publishing: commodification and increasing transference of the costs to authors and institutions. It proposes to improve this situation via repositories because this would be a way for universities to take back control over academic publications. This is not a new proposition, as the authors indeed acknowledge, and the key issue is how to evaluate the production that is increasingly deposited in the repositories. It is at this point that the discussions are situated, and I think this article doesn't offer new or alternative paths. To form academic committees for this huge material is unlikely to be practicable because scholars are highly pressured by evaluation work. On the other hand, they argue that journal citations - in spite of all the criticism around it - are still a good indicator for these evaluations. But these journal citations are produced by commercial publishers. So, I think this issue should be clarified.

I do agree with the authors that repositories offer an excellent opportunity to change the commercial path of scholarly publishing, but behind it, there is a value system in which researchers believe and an incentive for recognition and advancement in the career. So, how can repositories assure academic quality and de-commodify the process of recognition?