
REPLACING ACADEMIC JOURNALS

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Three crises

- **Reliability**
- Affordability
- Functionality

REVIEW ARTICLE

Front. Hum. Neurosci., 20 February 2018 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2018.00037>



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Research article

The natural selection of bad science

Paul E. Smaldino and Richard McElreath

Published: 01 September 2016

<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160384>

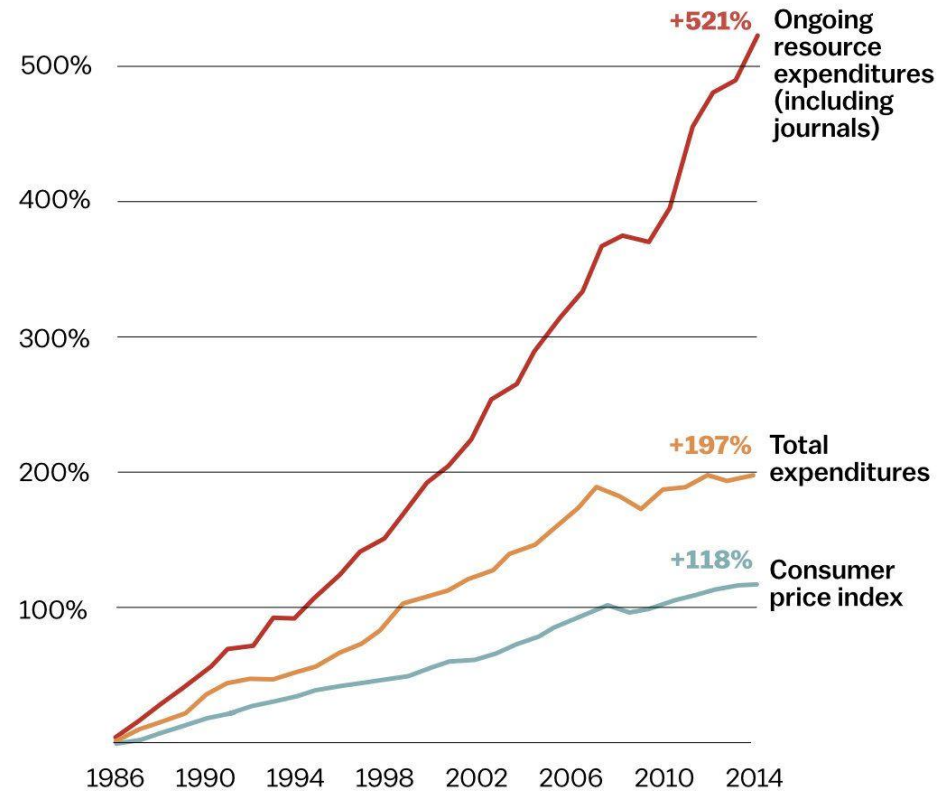
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Three crises

- Reliability
- **Affordability**
- Functionality

Spending on journals (and other reoccurring materials) has greatly outpaced inflation

Percent change in spending in university libraries



Source: Association of Research Libraries

Vox

Three crises

- Reliability
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Original Contribution

Selenite induces apoptosis in sarcomatoid malignant mesothelioma cells through oxidative stress

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Abstract

Malignant mesothelioma cells differentiate into sarcomatoid or epithelioid phenotypes. The sarcomatoid cell type is more resistant to chemotherapy and gives a worse prognosis. We have investigated whether selenite alone and in combination with doxorubicin induced apoptosis in variously differentiated mesothelioma cells. Selenite in concentrations that could potentially be administered to patients strongly inhibited the growth of the sarcomatoid mesothelioma cells ($IC_{50} = 7.5 \mu\text{M}$), whereas epithelioid cells were more sensitive to doxorubicin. Benign mesothelial cells remained largely unaffected. Selenite potentiated doxorubicin treatment. Apoptosis was the dominating mode of cell death. The toxicity of selenite was mediated by oxidative stress. Furthermore the activity of the thioredoxin system was directly dependent on the concentration of selenite. This offers a possible mechanism of action of selenite treatment. Our findings suggest that selenite is a promising new drug for the treatment of malignant mesothelioma.

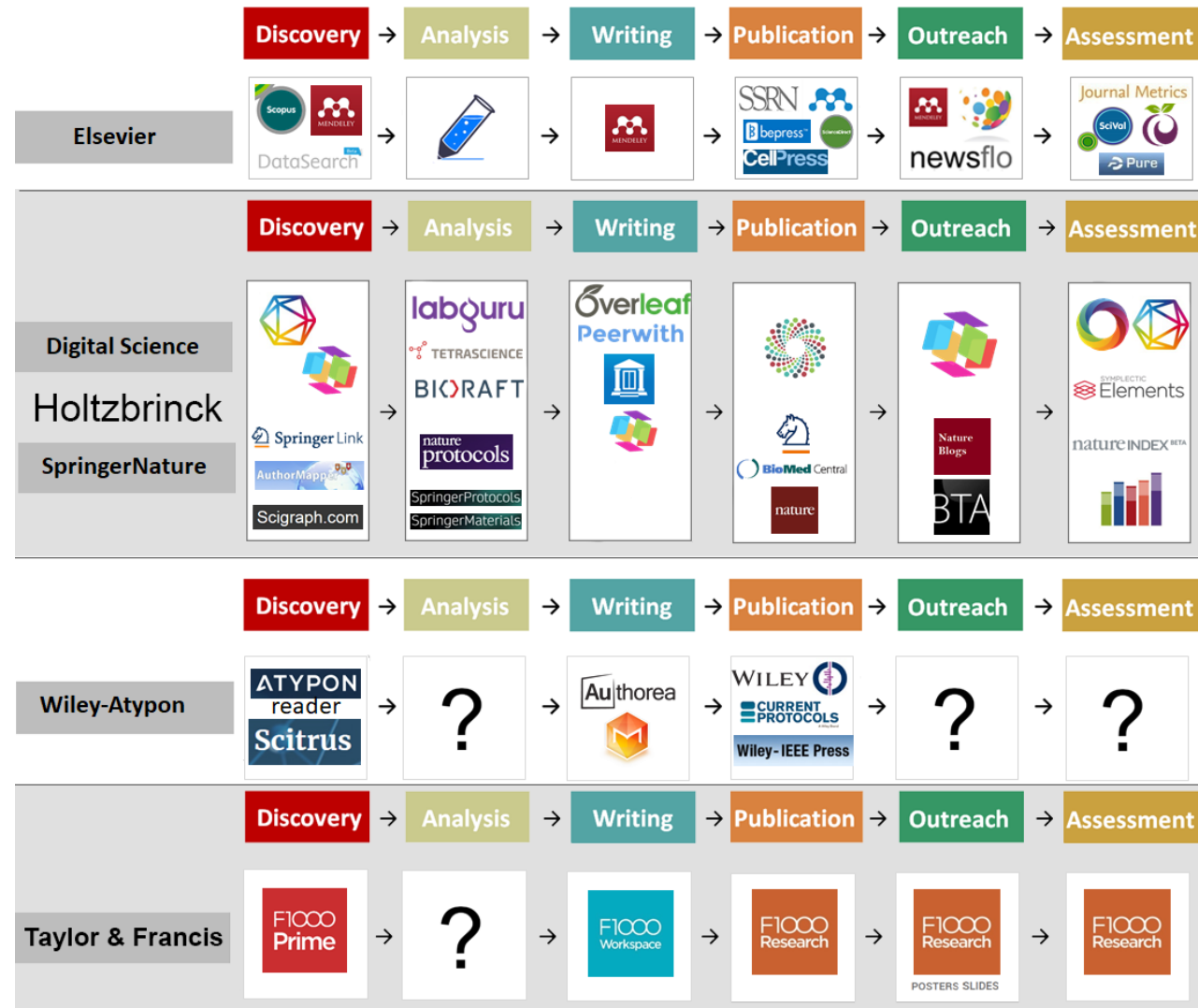
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Keywords: Mesothelioma; Phenotype; Drug resistance; Apoptosis; Selenium; Thioredoxin reductase; Free radicals

Journal article retains features of the printed artifact

- Static
- Low-operability formats (pdf)
- Long lag times to publication
- Quality control by peer review is opaque and unsystematic
- Authorship is the currency of merit
- Access limited/temporary

Capture of academic workflows



Goals for a modern scholarly digital infrastructure

- Restore governance over infrastructures and ownership of research objects to the scientific community
- Replace traditional journals with a decentralized, resilient, evolvable network that is interconnected by open standards
- Replace the monopolies of current journals with a genuine, functioning and well-regulated market, where substitutable service providers compete and innovate
- Replace journal prestige as proxy measure of quality with systematic assessments of research quality

Solutions

- Redirection of funding from legacy publishers to new infrastructures
- Replace negotiated deals with standard tender processes
- Funding agencies can require minimum standards of infrastructures and policies at research performing organizations as conditions for grants
- Step away from reliance on prestige metrics and develop new, modern and adaptable systems for assessing quality of outputs
- Ensure metrics for monitoring and evaluation are transparent and reproducible

Thank you for listening