

Consortia licensing, information as infrastructure

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CONSORTIA LICENSING, INFORMATION AS INFRASTRUCTURE

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ABSTRACT

Scholarly publishing originated as the most efficient method for researchers and scientists to verify and communicate findings and to maintain the public records of research. This paper will argue that the growth of science and research from the 1960's, combined with the rationalisation of educational spending in the same period, has pushed the edifice of the scholarly journal to an extreme. The paper will suggest that the advent of digital publishing allows a re-evaluation of the role of the journal within research and education. The traditional subscription model has tended to treat research information as a commodity, while alternative models, such as the consortium model, linked to digital delivery, can provide primary research as an infrastructure provision.