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The Role of Swiss Libraries in the Future of Open Science

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For-profit trends - #openscience alternatives
One aspect of a complex situation in flux

Acquisitions in the #scholcomm
business. An example

Libraries engaging in #openscience:
What we do, why, and what we need

There is always a bigger fish
Recent acquisitions in #scholcomm

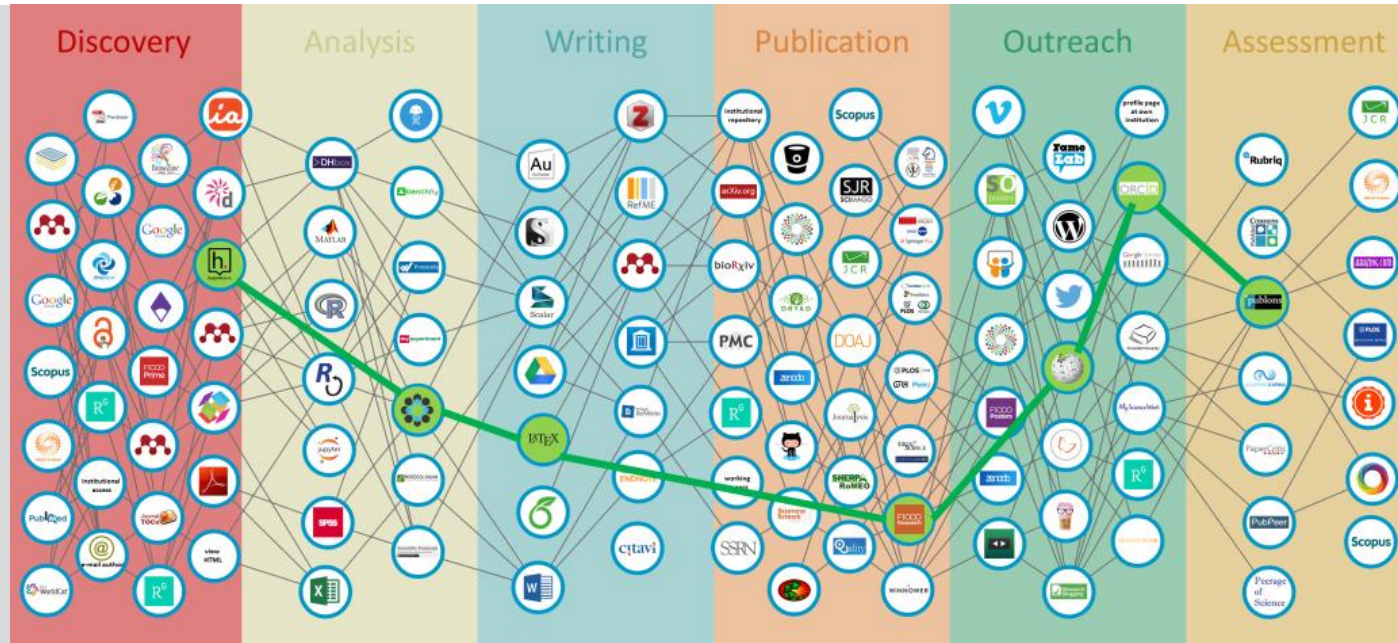**Acquisition affects all aspects of academia**

- Funding
- Data storage
- Teaching
- Writing
- Repositories
- Discoverability
- Metrics
- Publishing
- Etc.

From product to service provider

- Companies (e.g. Elsevier) shift away from providing a specific product or service (publishing journals and books) towards a broad portfolio of services (research tools, writing, repositories, metrics, etc.)
- This diversification means that innovation including that in the #openscience movement is at risk of being acquired as soon as it is scalable (or too much competition).

There is always a bigger fish
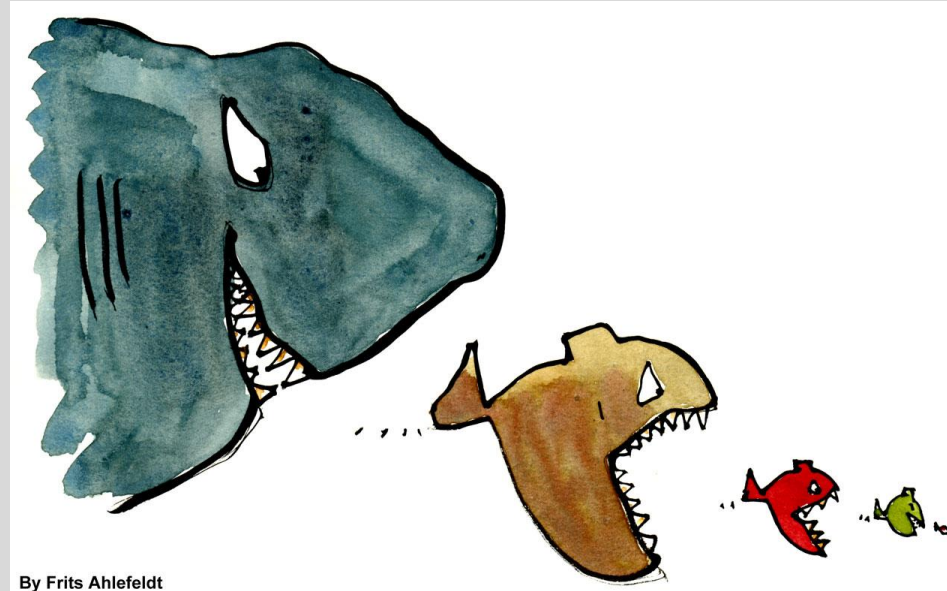## Ecosystem: research production

Source:
https://jrost.org/

There is always a bigger fish

Example: ProQuest - Ex Libris - *Research

Academic area affected: funding

- *Research Ltd. supports researchers with services to find and secure external funding
- Ex Libris is a Software company that builds library software
- ProQuest is an international information and tech company
- …owned by the privately owned Cambridge Information Group

By Frits Ahlefeldt

There is always a bigger fish

Concerns:

Acquisition and consolidation can result in:

- Lack of transparency
- Lack of competition
- Lack of innovation
- Price hikes
- Loss of independence
- Stifling of alternative paths in #scholcomm

Libraries engaging in #openscience
What we do

Infrastructure

- Implementing institutional research instruments
- Standardisation (Metadata etc.)
- Alternative publication venues
- Independent data infrastructure
- Developing new and missing instruments

Services

- Supporting researchers in all things open science: requirements, curiosity, need.
- Vetting and offering a variety of open source tools for the research cycle
- Offering workshops, courses, consultations and discussions to researchers on all aspects of open science

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Libraries engaging in #openscience
What we need and for what

Cooperation with stakeholders

- funding instruments
- lawmakers
- institutions

In Switzerland:
- National OA Strategy
- Workable number of stakeholders

A goal and how to reach it

To secure an alternative path for researchers by:
- Vetting, supporting and protecting vital parts of the #openscience ecosystem
- Investing in, monitoring and curating promising new projects (risks notwithstanding) and models
- Coordinating these investments and optimizing the costs.

Libraries engaging in #openscience
What we need most of all

Cooperation with researchers

- To build instruments that further research
- To facilitate easy handling and maneuvering of OA requirements
- To fill our repositories and OA publishing venues with excellent content

The goal is to create a sustainable alternative to the current (ailing) #scholcomm framework.

Transparent, reusable and accessible to all.

Thank you!

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