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Marie Farge est Directrice de Recherche au CNRS et travaille à l'Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris. Elle est docteur en physique et en mathématiques, membre du Conseil de l'Académie d'Europe (Academia Europaea), 'fellow' de l'American Physical Society et du Wissenschaftskolleg de Berlin. Sa spécialité est la turbulence, la simulation numérique et la théorie des ondelettes. En 2011 elle a rédigé l'avis du Comité d'Ethique du CNRS sur les relations entre les chercheurs et les maisons d'édition. En 2012 elle a participé à la rédaction de la déclaration 'The Cost of Knowledge' dénonçant la possession et le contrôle des publications scientifiques par quelques 'publishers' dominants à l'échelle mondiale et

appelant à boycotter le principal d'entre eux, Elsevier. Ce mouvement, suivi par près de 15 000 chercheurs dans le monde, a permis l'abandon du 'Research Works Act', projet de loi américain déposé en 2011 sous l'emprise du 'lobbying' d'Elsevier, qui voulait ainsi interdire aux agences publiques fédérales que les articles présentant les résultats scientifiques qu'elles avaient financés soient accessibles à tous ('Open Access'). Cependant l'oligopole actuel exercé par quelques 'publishers' impose aujourd'hui aux chercheurs et aux institutions finançant la recherche le modèle 'Gold Open Access', où les chercheurs doivent payer pour publier leurs résultats et où les 'publishers' sont propriétaires des journaux scientifiques. Il est urgent que les chercheurs proposent d'autres modèles de publication, où ils continueraient à assurer gratuitement l'évaluation des articles ('peer-reviewing') mais où les 'publishers' n'auraient plus la propriété intellectuelle, ni des journaux, ni des articles, et seraient mis en concurrence pour offrir les meilleurs services possibles à la communauté scientifique.

The future of scientific publishing

Durée : 15 minutes

Orateur : Marie Farge (Directrice de Recherche CNRS, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris)

The general scheme for peer-reviewed scientific publishing is the following: we scientists write scientific papers and peer-review them for free, since it is an essential part of our academic duty already paid by our salary. After our papers have been checked, improved and accepted by our peers, publishers are in charge of their publication. To do so they ask us to sign copyright transfer forms, but, if we refuse, our papers are not published. This copyright transfer gives them for free our intellectual property rights, which thus allow them to sell our papers back to our research institutions at a monopolistic price they set themselves, with secret subscription contracts. This non-competitive and secretive process reaps massive profits for the publishers. Last year the largest one, Elsevier, had a 39% profit margin, which increases by 3% each year. Elsevier's revenue is more than the budget of CNRS, which is the largest research institution in Europe and the first in the world for the number of published peer-reviewed papers (cf. Scimago institutions rankings 2013). Moreover, publishers also control bibliometric statistics that are increasingly

used to evaluate research, with a considerable impact on our careers. This system is the same worldwide and all research institutions, including those belonging to industry, suffer from this oligopolistic situation.

We scientists are demanding control and ownership of our results in order to make them available and usable, to anyone and to any institution, for the sake of the advancement of knowledge. Which model do we propose?

- Firstly, journals should be owned by their editorial boards in charge of the peer-reviewing.
- Second, authors should keep their copyright and make their papers available to anyone under a Creative Commons licence CC-BY.
- Third, funding agencies should no longer pay subscriptions and article processing charges directly to publishers. They should instead finance open access publishing platforms, developed with open source software, that would offer all needed services for editing and publishing a large number of journals, selected for the quality of their peer-reviewing.

Publishers would thus keep their business going, but as service providers to the publishing platforms, but no longer as content owners of our journals, of our papers and of the data they contain, as is the case today. Such open access publishing platforms already exist (e.g., [scielo.org] in Brazil or [revues.org] in France) but the key effort should go to their generalization. We need to develop and promote new intellectual commons, publicly owned and freely used by researchers, companies and citizens ; this might be a suggestion for a long-term investment by the European Commission.

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