Four Reasons to Oppose the Use of Elsevier's Services for the Medical Journal of Australia

Alex O. Holcombe

Blog post published May 4, 2015 in *Alex Holcombe's blog*
https://doi.org/10.59350/pkqcj-1df45

Abstract

Elsevier has a history of unethical behaviour: Elsevier created fake medical journals to promote Merck products. Elsevier sponsored arms fairs for the international sale of weapons. Elsevier sponsored a bill that would have eliminated the NIH mandate that medical research be make freely available within 12 months of publication.

Keywords

Cognitive Neuroscience (Subfield)

Recommended citation

Holcombe, A. O. (2015, May 4). Four Reasons to Oppose the Use of Elsevier's Services for the Medical Journal of Australia. *Alex Holcombe's Blog*. https://doi.org/10.59350/pkqcj-1df45

Copyright

Copyright © Alex O. Holcombe 2015. Distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Elsevier has a history of unethical behaviour:

1. Elsevier created fake medical journals to promote Merck products.
2. Elsevier sponsored arms fairs for the international sale of weapons.
3. Elsevier sponsored a bill that would have eliminated the NIH mandate that medical research be make freely available within 12 months of publication.
4. Elsevier requires university and medical libraries to sign agreements that prevent them from reporting the exorbitant prices the libraries pay to subscribe to Elsevier's journals.

Thanks to such practices, Elsevier makes an outrageous level of profit, 36% of revenue- higher than BMW and higher than the mining giant Rio Tinto

operating profit	*company*	*industry*
7%	Woolworths	supermarkets, pokies
12%	BMW	automobiles
22%	Coca-Cola	adding sugar to water
23%	Rio Tinto	mining
36%	Apple	premium computing
34%	Springer	scholarly publishing
36%	Elsevier	scholarly publishing
40%	Wiley	scholarly publishing

http://alexholcombe.wordpress.com/2013/01/09/scholarly-publishers-and-their-high-profits/

. While researchers and research funders are attempting to transition medical and science publishing to an open access model, Elsevier seeks to hinder this transition. It is their corporate mandate to preserve the high level of profits they make by charging subscription fees for the articles that describe taxpayer-funded research.

Researchers ought to be using other providers, not channeling more money into Elsevier.