

# An introduction to the *Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers*

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# What is ALPSP?

- The international association for all non-profit publishers
  - *learned societies*
  - *professional associations*
  - *university presses*
  - *Inter-Governmental Organizations*
  - *institutes, foundations, charities etc*
- Other members of the scholarly communication chain (including commercial publishers) may join as Associate Members

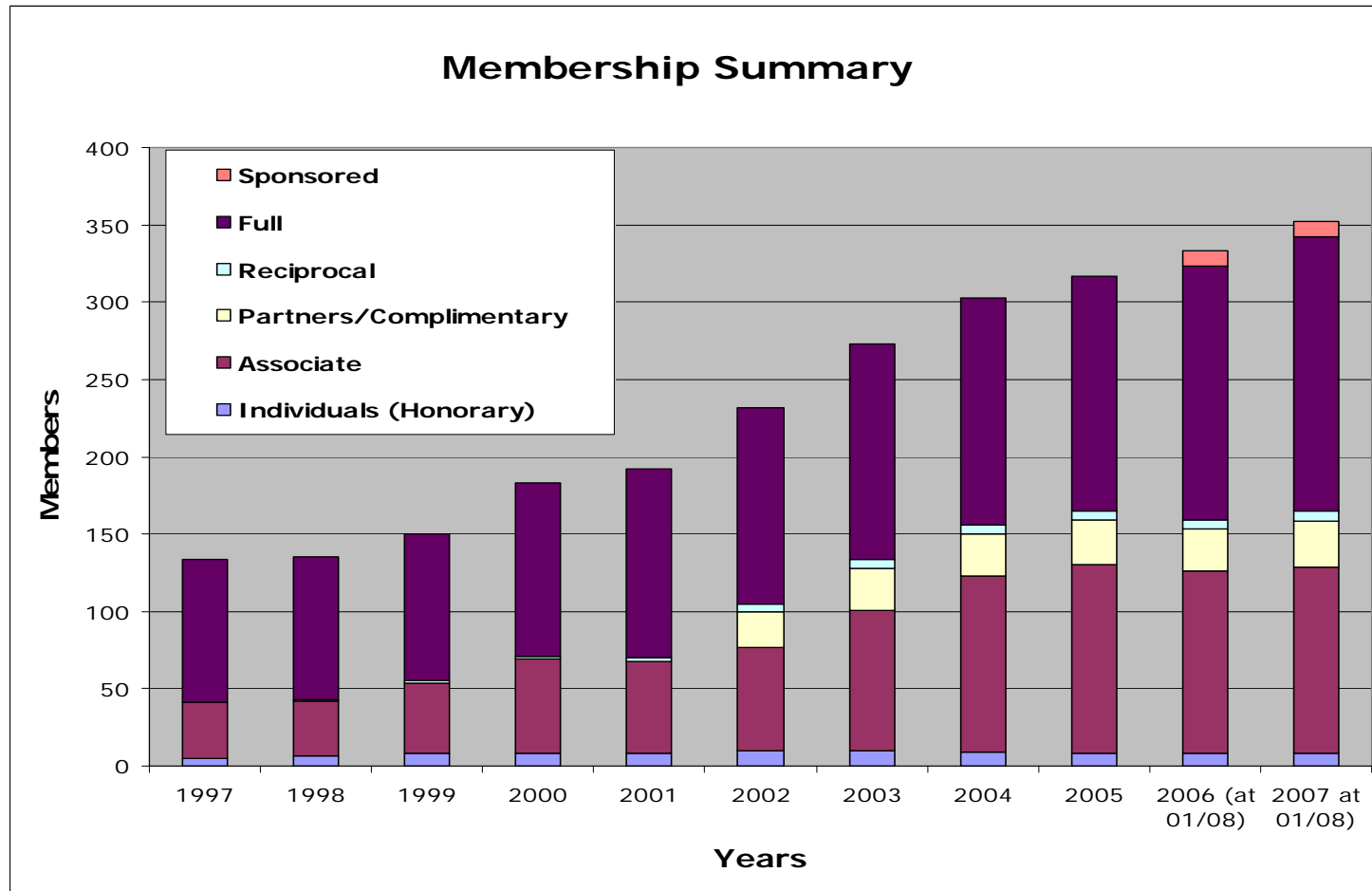


# ALPSP in 2008

Founded in the UK in 1972 in the UK, ALPSP is now the largest association for scholarly publishers in the world

- 360+ members
- of which 262 are publishers
- publishing over 10,000 journals (almost half the world's total output)
- as well as books, databases and other products
- There are ALPSP members in 36 different countries

# ALPSP membership . . .



# Or in another way . . .

Academia Press; Accucoms; Africa Health Research Organization; African Association of Political Science; African Crop Science Journal; African Health Sciences; African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition & Development; African Journal of Reproductive Health; Akademiai Kiado; Allen Press; Alliance for Children & Families; American Chemical Society; American Geophysical Union; American Institute of Biological Sciences; American Mathematical Society; American Medical Association; American Physical Society; American Psychiatric Publishing; American School of Classical Studies at Athens; American Society of Clinical Oncology; American Society of Plant Biologists; Amigos Library Services; Amsterdam University Press; Annual Reviews; Antarctic Science; Antiquity; Applied Probability Trust; Aplara; Aries Systems Corporation; Arnold; Association for Learning Technology; Association of Applied Biologists; Association of College & Research Libraries; Association of Literary Scholars & Critics; Association of Subscription Agents & Intermediaries; Atypon; Australian Academic Press; Australian Physiotherapy Association; Barry Bracewell-Milnes; Beech Tree Publishing; John Benjamins Publishing Company; Berg Publishers; Berkeley Electronic Press; Bertoli Mitchell; Biochemical Society; BRILL; British Association for Canadian Studies; British Computer Society; British Ecological Society; British Editorial Society of Bone & Joint Surgery; British Geriatrics Society; British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing; British Institute of Radiology; British Journal of Pharmacology; British Library Publishing; British Medical Association; British Museum Research Publications; British Mycological Society; British Nursing Index; British Postgraduate Musicology; British Psychological Society; British School at Rome; British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy; British Society for Immunology; British Society for Rheumatology; British Trust for Ornithology; British Veterinary Association; CABI Publishing; Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre; Cambridge University Press; Canadian Journal of History; Carden Jennings Publishing; Center for Studier i Arbejdsliv; Central African Journal of Medicine; Central Asia Archaeological Group; Charlesworth Group; Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals; Chatham House; Chemical Society of Ethiopia; College of Occupational Therapists; Company of Biologists; Connaught Factsline; Content Complete; Cotswold Publishing Consultants; Council for British Archaeology; Cox, John, Associates; Croatian Physical Society; CrossRef; CSIRO Publishing; Davenport Publishing Services; Duke University Press; Edinburgh University Press; Editing & Publication Association of Bangladesh; Editorial Office; EDP Sciences; Electronic Publishing Services; Electrophysiological Technologists' Association; Elsevier; EMBL; Emerald Group Publishing; Energy Institute; English Heritage; EPL; Equilibris Publishing; Equinox Publishing; eSharp; European Association of Science Editors; European Respiratory Society; European Society of Cardiology; European Urology; Faculty of Family Planning & Reproductive Health Care; Federation of European Microbiology Societies; Federation Press; Food & Agriculture Organisation; Forum; Forum for Global Health Protection; Frontline Global Marketing Services; Future Medicine; Gemmological Association; Geological Society; Gold Leaf; The Haworth Press; Headfast; Health Affairs Journal; Health Sciences & Practice Subject Centre, Higher Education Academy; HEP; HFSP Publishing; HighWire Press; Hindawi Publishing Corporation; Hydrographic Society; IAHR; IAHS Press; ICSTI; Ite Centre for Psychological Studies; IM Publications; Indian Council for Agricultural Research; Inera; Inferno; Information Design & Management; Informed Strategies; INFORMS; Ingenta; INIST-CNRS; Institute of Actuaries; Institute of Clinical Research; Institute of Finance Management, Tanzania; Institute of Marine Engineers; Institute of Mathematical Statistics; Institute of Mathematics & its Applications; Institute of Physics; Institute of Physics & Engineering in Medicine; Institute of Psycho-Analysis; Institute of Social Studies; Institution of Chemical Engineers; Institution of Civil Engineers; Institution of Engineering & Technology; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Institution of Structural Engineers; Instituto ELFOS; Intellect; International Association for Bridge & Structural Engineers; International Atomic Energy Agency; International Centre for Materials Science & Technology, Ghana; International Centre of Insect Physiology & Ecology; International Food Information Service; International Glaciological Society; International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications; International Union of Crystallography; IOS Press; ISTE; IWA Publishing; Journal of Applied Sciences & Environmental Management; Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy; Journal of Transport Economics & Policy; Karnac Books; Kilmerie Clarke; Kingston Press; Librapharm; Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; Liverpool University Press; Lloyd Fletcher Consulting; London College of Communication; London Mathematical Society; London School of Economics; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Manches; Manchester University Press; Maney; Manuscript; Marginalia; Marston Book Services; Mary Waltham; MediaFund; Medknow Publications; Millennium Journal of International Studies; Mineralogical Society; Modern Humanities Research Association; Modern Language Association of America; Monash University ePress; Morris Associates; MPS Technologies; Multilingual Matters; Multi-Science Publishing; Nature Publishing Group; New England Journal of Medicine; New Phytologist; Newcomen Society; NHS Health Scotland; NISC; Now Publishers; NRC Research Press; Nutrition Society; OceanSide Publications; Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development; Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern & Southern Africa; Oswaldo Cruz Institute; Overseas Development Institute; Ovid Technologies; Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies; Oxford University Press; Pan African Association of Anthropologists; Path; Peeters Publishers; Peter Sowden; Physiological Society; Pion Limited; PIRA International; PNAS; Policy Press; Polish Agricultural Universities; Portico; Postgraduate English; Postgraduate Forum; Postgraduate Journal of Aesthetics; Practical Action Publishing; Public Library of Science; Publisher & Society Advisory Services; Quest; Regional Studies Association; Research Information; RICS Books; Ringgold; River Valley Technologies; RMIT Publishing; Robert Gordon University; Rockefeller University Press; Royal Astronomical Society; Royal College of General Practitioners; Royal College of Nursing; Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists; Royal College of Pathologists; Royal College of Physicians; Royal College of Psychiatrists; Royal College of Radiologists; Royal College of Surgeons of England; Royal Geographical Society; Royal Irish Academy; Royal Meteorological Society; Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences; Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Royal Society; Royal Society of Chemistry; Royal Society of Edinburgh; Royal Society of Medicine Press; Royal Statistical Society; Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; RPM Print & Design; RW Consulting; Sage Publications; Scheman Consulting; School of Social Work; Science International; Science Reviews; Scientific Institute for Medical Information & Documentation; Shift Media; Simon Inger Consulting; SINET; Ethiopian Journal of Science; Smart; Society for Editors & Proofreaders; Society for Endocrinology; Society for Experimental Biology; Society for General Microbiology; Society for Personality Research; Society for the Advancement of Management Studies; Society for the History of Natural History; Society for Underwater Technology; Society of Chemical Industry; Society of Dyers & Colourists; Society of Indexers; Somerset Computing; SPARC; Springer Science + Business Media; Sunrise Setting; Swedenborg Society; Swets; Symposium Journals; Tanzania Journal of Science; Taylor & Francis; TBI; Tech-Net Scientific e-Publishing Services; Therapeutic Guidelines; Tou-Can Marketing; Trust for Wessex Archaeology; Turpin Distribution; Turpin; Universitätsverlag Göttingen; University of Buckingham Press; University of Loughborough; University of Technology, Sydney; Vathek Publishing; Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften; Versita; VetLearn; Walter de Gruyter; Mark Ware Consulting; Watkinson; The Way; Westburn Publishers; Whiting & Birch; John Wiley & Sons; Wiley-Blackwell; Wolters Kluwer Health; World Bank; World Conservation Union; World Health Organization; World Tourism Organization; Zimbabwe Scientific Association; Zoological Society

# International Chapters

## **Already established in North America and Australia . . .**

- Managed by a local committee of ALPSP members, reporting to ALPSP Council
- Chair of Chapter becomes a member of ALPSP Council
- Meet regularly to discuss local issues and provide feed back to all ALPSP members
- Arrange events – training, seminars, briefings
- Represent the non-profit publishers point of view

# What does ALPSP do?

- Representation and advocacy
- Professional development
- Collaborative initiatives
- Good Practice leadership
- Information and advice









# Research . . .

**Scholarly Publishing Practice:** Academic journal publishers' policies and practices in online publishing – surveys conducted in 2003, **2005** and (forthcoming) 2008

- 174 publishers, 123 also publish books and 33 publish databases
- **New journal launches:** 1,048 new journal launches in previous five years, 185 discontinued – averaging 1.06 per publisher
- **Online submission systems:** 58.6 per cent are already using systems.
- **Online availability:** 90 per cent of journals use them (up from 75 per cent in 2003)



# Research . . .

- **Open access:** one fifth of publishers experimenting
- **Access to back volumes:** 91 per cent of publishers make back volumes available
- **Long-term preservation:** 42 per cent of publishers have established formal arrangements
- **Authors' rights:** 61 per cent require authors to transfer copyright, down from 83 per cent in 2003
- **Online pricing:** still largely tied to the print price, but new pricing models linked to institutional classification, size or usage are emerging

# Professional Development

- Seminars and other events on topical issues
- Training – the leading provider of journals-related training
- ~25 training courses per year in UK, 10 in US in 2008
  - 5 areas - Editorial, Marketing, Production & electronic publishing, Copyright & legal, Business & management
  - 3 levels - Introductory (0 - 2 years' experience), Intermediate (2 - 3 years' experience), Senior (for managers)
  - Planned and delivered by publishers
  - Tutors receive training skills workshop
- In-house courses for individual companies

# Collaborative Initiatives

- Enabling smaller publishers to work together
- Negotiation of collective offers with major suppliers
- **ALPSP Learned Journals Collection**
  - To help smaller publishers compete with the 'Big Deal'
  - Collection of 627 journals from 48 smaller publishers
  - Sold as a package by Swets – 9 subject-specific subsets also available
  - [www.alpsp-collection.org](http://www.alpsp-collection.org)
- Investigating demand for a similar service for e-books – the **ALPSP e-Books Collection**

# Good Practice Leadership

Position papers and guidelines, e.g.

- Scholarship-Friendly Journal Publishing
- Model agreements for journal authors
- Open Access
- Journal Transfers
- Access to Data
- Series of more than 30 'Advice Notes'



# Information and Advice

## *Information and advice:*

- Quarterly Journal (*Learned Publishing*)
- Website ([www.alpsp.org](http://www.alpsp.org))
- Monthly members' electronic newsletter (*ALPSP Alert*)
- discussion lists
- reports and other publications
- Presence at international conferences and exhibitions (including London Book Fair, Frankfurt Book Fair, Beijing Book Fair)
- Personal networking

# Membership

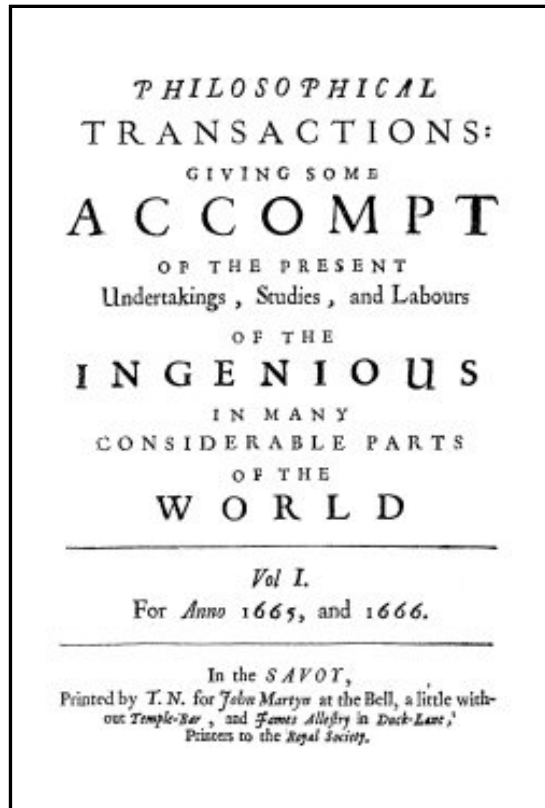
- Full membership is open to all non-profit publishers
- Associate membership is open to commercial publishers and others in the scholarly information chain
- Membership rates are dependent on expenditure on scholarly and professional publishing (not including staff and overheads)
- Charge is pro-rata for new members who join part-way through the year

# Why are 'society' publishers different?





# The first society journal?



The oldest academy in Europe dates from 1323, and 30 societies were founded before 1599, including the 1505 'Barber Surgeons of Edinburgh'.

The first issue of *Philosophical Transactions* appeared in March 1665 and featured Oldenburg's correspondence with leading European scientists. In its formative years Isaac Newton had seventeen papers published in the journal including his first paper - *New Theory about Light and Colours* - which effectively served to launch his scientific career in 1672.

<http://publishing.royalsociety.org/>

# Henry Oldenburg's key principles

- **Registration:** to establish the ownership of a specific discovery by a researcher (or group of researchers as is now more commonly the case) and to assert that it was made on a particular date. In other words being able to establish priority and to clearly date-stamp the work.
- **Certification:** to have the quality of the research acknowledged, usually through publication in a specific journal and the acceptance of the work by peers.
- **Dissemination:** to let their fellow scientists know what they have done.
- **Archiving:** to provide a permanent record of their work.

# Serving a community . . .



*What do society and  
association members  
really want?*

Mary Waltham

*Learned Publishing*, Vol 21, No 1,  
January 2008

# Reasons for joining a society . . .

- To promote understanding in their respective fields
- To encourage interaction between people (conferences, networking, collaboration)
- To use the resulting knowledge for the common good
  
- Learned society
  - *Promotes a specific discipline*
- Professional society
  - *Certifies competence*

Yet these roles overlap



# Trends in membership . . .

## Figure 2: Trends in society membership from a poll taken in June 2007

In the past two years (2005 and 2006) did your membership numbers:

Increase	13/29		
Remain flat	12/29		
Fall	4/29 . . .	by more than 7%	0/4
		by more than 3%	2/4
		by 3% or less	2/4

From: *What do society and association members really want?*  
Mary Waltham, *Learned Publishing*, Vol 21, No 1, January 2008

# Trends in membership

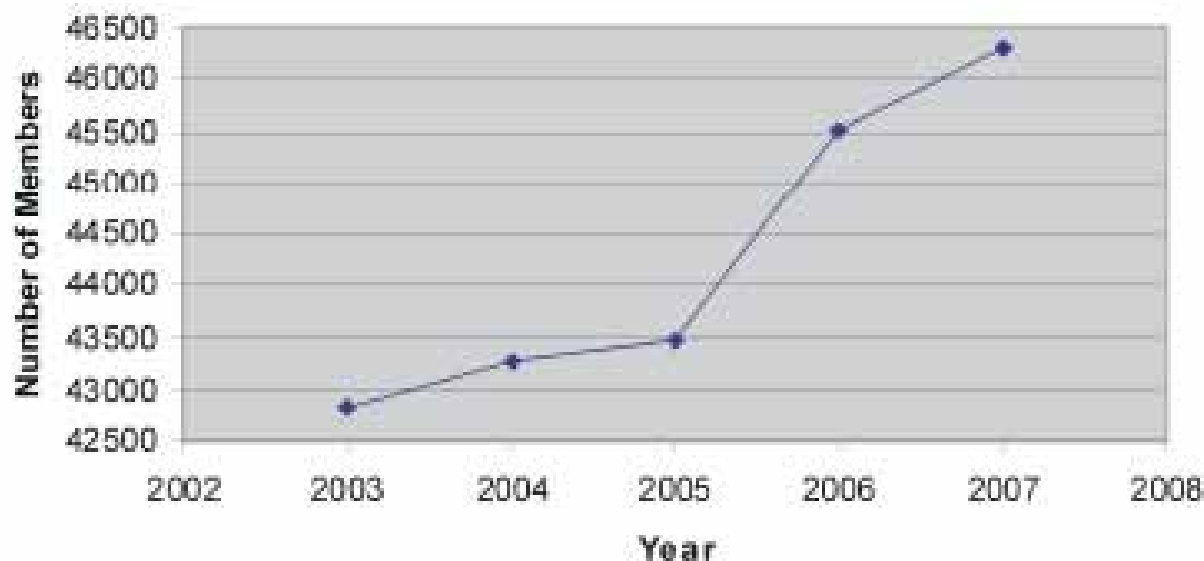


Figure 3 Membership of the American Physical Society 2002–2007

Source: APS Executive Director

# The journal?

Usually in second or third place, never in first . . .

But important none-the-less, and should reflect the values of the membership – you should be doing for your members what the members are unable to do themselves!



# What do societies do with their publishing surpluses?

## *ALPSP Research done in 2004:*

- 154 learned society and professional association publishers surveyed
- 68 responses
- 33.3% said they did not make a surplus from publishing
- The median surplus of 'self-publishers' was 15% of revenue
- Of those, publishing revenues represented 20% of total society revenue
- Those who contracted out their publishing reported a higher median figure





# How were the surpluses applied?

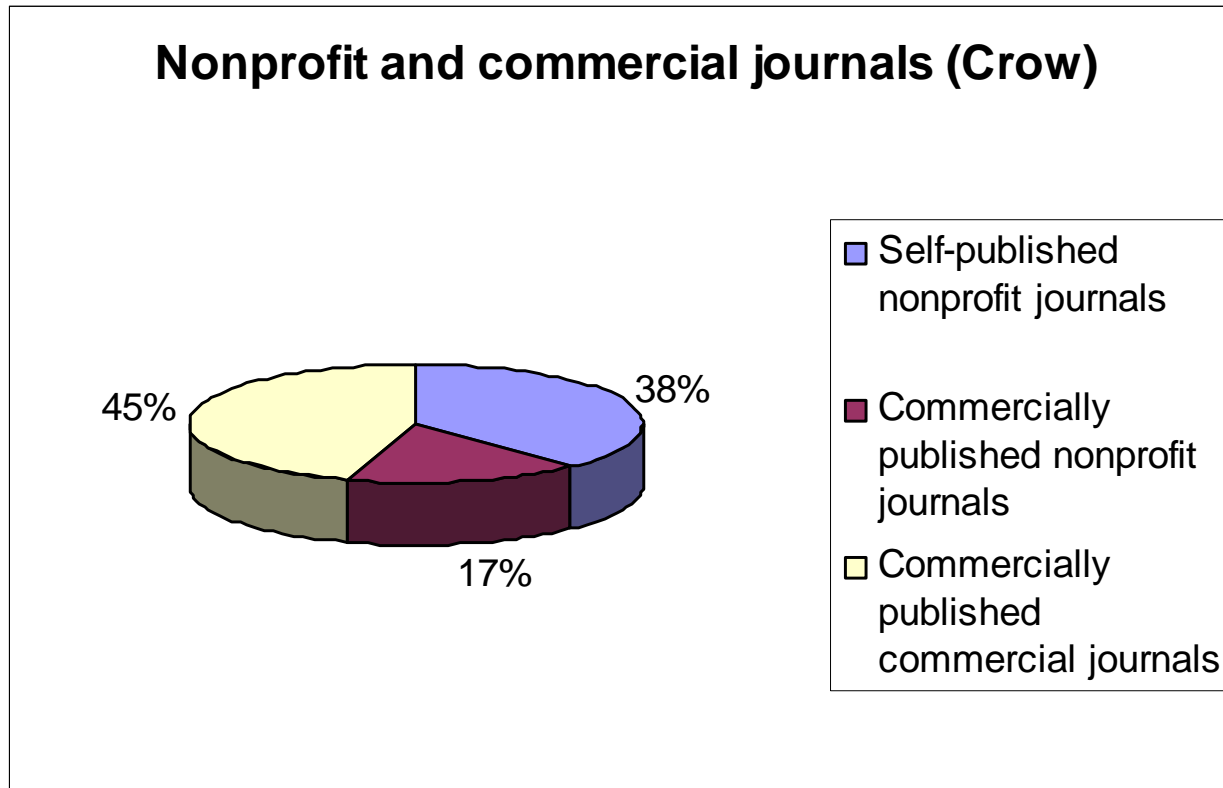
1. Subsidy of members' copies of the journal (96% of sample)
2. Supporting the organization in general (82%)
3. Reinvestment in the publishing business in particular (42%)
4. Subsidy of conference fees (33%)
5. Subsidy of membership dues (32%)
6. Provision of bursaries (26%)
7. Public education (26%)
8. Reinvestment in the organization's reserves/endowments (21%)
9. Other (21%)



# How publishing is handled (2004)

How is publishing handled	Respondents	%
Do own publishing	39	57%
Contract out	38	56%
Do own publishing (only)	30	44%
Contract out (only)	29	43%
Do both	9	13%
No response	0	0%
Total	68	100%

# Revenues from subscriptions support other activities



**Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, 2005  
(analysis by Raym Crow)**



# Advice on contracting out – and how to ‘manage’ your publisher

*“As from 1 Jan 07 we will no longer be publishing the International Journal of ----- independently. We have passed the task to (a very big publisher). As a consequence we will no longer require our membership of the ALPSP.” [application to re-join received for 2008]*

- Guidelines on society/publisher contracts
- Editor Contracts
- Advice notes on cross-industry initiatives
- ALPSP ‘Alert’ eNewsletter with industry news
- Training
- Seminars
- Cooperative services

**1 Incoming resources**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2005 Total funds £	2004 Total funds £
Donations and legacies	21,000	170,845	<b>191,845</b>	1,426,454
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects				
. Annual subscriptions	1,473,142	—	<b>1,473,142</b>	1,383,593
Examination fees				
. Membership	1,317,241	—	<b>1,317,241</b>	1,050,435
. Diplomas	338,211	—	<b>338,211</b>	338,669
Registration fees	121,273	—	<b>121,273</b>	120,415
BJOG	471,511	—	<b>471,511</b>	450,917
Grants received from government bodies				
. Postgraduate training activities	—	149,587	<b>149,587</b>	145,227
. Overseas doctors training	—	135,164	<b>135,164</b>	131,224
. NCC - WCH	—	1,310,583	<b>1,310,583</b>	676,964
. CEMACH (note 4)	—	1,446,268	<b>1,446,268</b>	1,384,970
. Other	—	—	—	163,067
Postgraduate activities				
. Income from meetings/study groups	969,373	—	<b>969,373</b>	1,043,921
. Certification fees	91,788	—	<b>91,788</b>	67,370
Publications and bookshop	694,800	—	<b>694,800</b>	702,125
Accommodation and service charges				
. Management fees	83,087	—	<b>83,087</b>	59,529
Accommodation charges:				
.. WellBeing	43,849	—	<b>43,849</b>	43,968
.. Faculty of Family Planning	60,002	—	<b>60,002</b>	53,891
.. Other	1,250	—	<b>1,250</b>	6,270
. College functions	29,811	—	<b>29,811</b>	15,546
. President's House	36,893	—	<b>36,893</b>	27,487
. College lettings - charitable trading	32,049	—	<b>32,049</b>	118,756
	5,764,280	3,041,602	<b>8,805,882</b>	7,984,344
Activities for generating funds (note 3)	1,137,709	—	<b>1,137,709</b>	876,700
Investment income				
. Managed utilised funds	146,431	277,644	<b>424,075</b>	344,565
Other income	25,871	—	<b>25,871</b>	28,989
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>7,095,291</b>	<b>3,490,091</b>	<b>10,585,382</b>	<b>10,661,052</b>

# Which journals are most vulnerable?

- Single- (or few-) journal publisher
  - ‘Over 97% of society publishers publish three or fewer journals, with almost 90% publishing just one title’.  
Raym Crow, Publishing Cooperatives: an alternative for society publishers (SPARC, 2006)
- *Society publishers limited to specific discipline*
- *Niche journals*
  - *Low circulation → higher price*
- *Low-profit journals*
  - *Less room for manoeuvre*



# Collaboration

- Conferences
- Networking
- Community
- Innovation

I hope you will consider becoming a member of ALPSP.



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