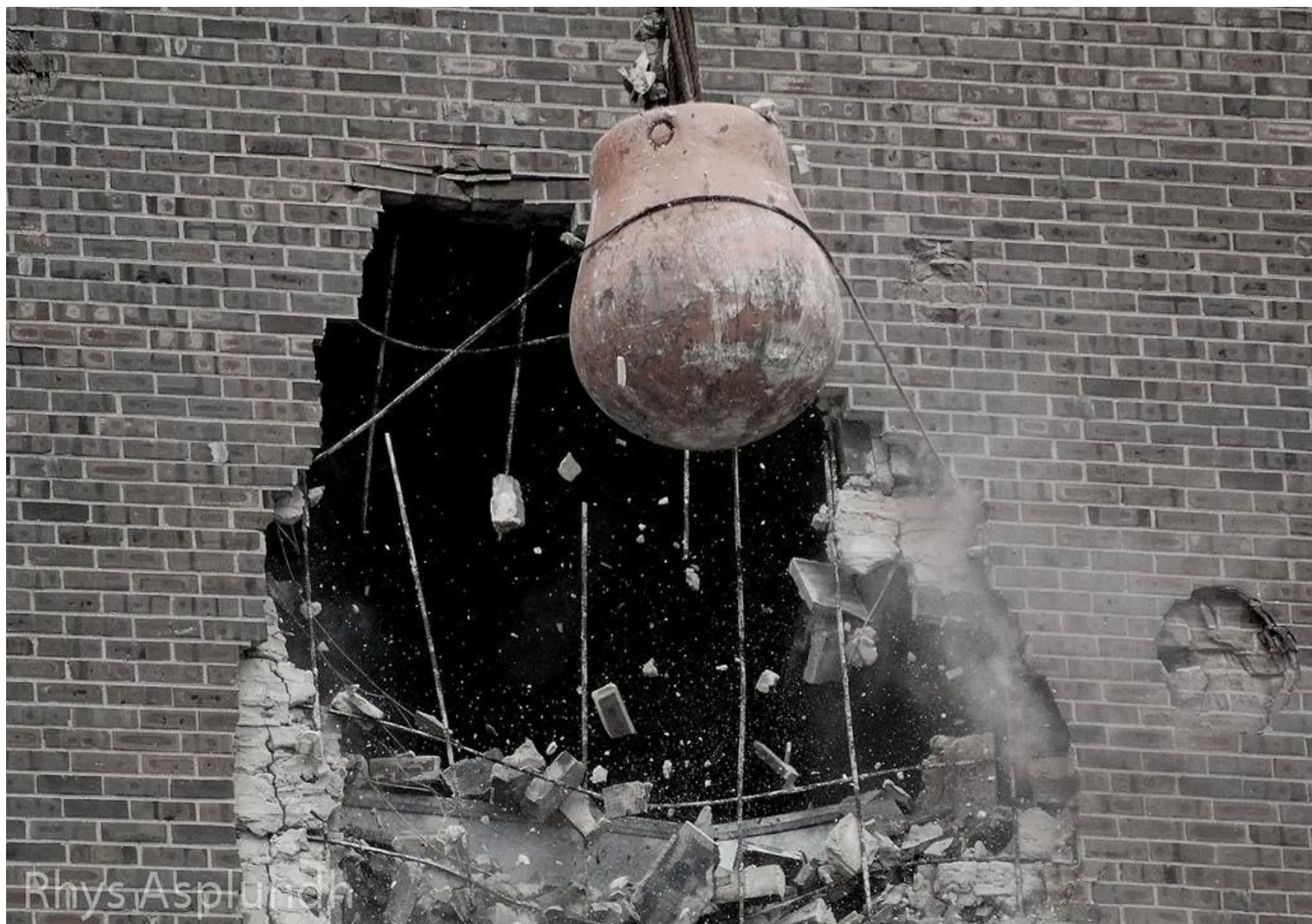




Open Knowledge Sharing in a Chaotic Time

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How do we keep working to ensure that everyone has the right to **access, contribute to,** and **benefit from** sharing knowledge?

1. What's going on?
2. How will this effect our community?
3. What are we going to do about it?

Part I: What's Going On?

Politically

- Threat to existence of federally funded science
- Data disappearance
- Dismantling of research infrastructure
- Politicization of science and grantmaking
- Climate of fear/retribution
- Constant uncertainty

Economically

- Research funding cuts/redistribution
- New regulation of direct costs
- Attempts to cap indirect costs
- Endowment tax changes
- Inflation
- Continued publisher price increases
- Continued consolidation

Technologically

- Explosion of new generative AI and agentic technologies
- Pace of change accelerating beyond expectations – long term planning is now 1 year.
- Breadth of AI applications permeating every aspect of library and publisher work.

Part II: What Does this mean for Libraries?

Implications for Libraries

- Less money
 - For research
 - For institutions
 - For library budgets
 - For publishing

Implications for Libraries

- Re-examination of fundamental roles
- Constant pressure to “transform”
- AI enhancing/replacing roles
- Openness vs control/monetization
 - Collections as assets
 - Public good

Part III: What are we Going to DO about it?



Don't back off on **openness** as an
enabling strategy

Ok. Let's talk about other actions.

- First time ever Administration has directly called for large scale, systemic change in research communication
- First time ever policy makers have openly challenged primacy of APC's
- First time ever Congress considering money for infrastructure to support open access.

We have an unprecedented
opportunity to hit the “reset” button.
We have to be ready with clear policy
asks.

We do **not** want/need to keep **paying**
commercial publishers to confer
prestige.



Resolution on Scientific Publishing and MIT Libraries

WHEREAS inequality among academic journals has widened over the past decades, resulting in the emergence of hyper-prestige journals, with higher citations, name recognition, low acceptance rate, perceived monopoly of high-quality science, and unreasonable publication cost;

WHEREAS hyper-prestige journals enable lucrative business models, charging high fees for both authors and readers, not compensating peer reviewers, disrespecting author rights, and resulting in unfair financial burdens on MIT and other academic institutions and funding agencies, as well as frustrating open and free access to scientific research;

WHEREAS hyper-prestige journals create incentives misaligned with scientific and academic ideals, distorting scientific progress and graduate education;

WHEREAS MIT Libraries faced significant and permanent budget cuts in FY20, FY26, and FY27, while the cost of blanket-access contracts continue to increase dramatically;

WHEREAS MIT Libraries have replaced blanket-access contract with Elsevier with pay-per-access contract in 2019. MIT Libraries further ended blanket-access contract with Springer Palgrave, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley in 2026, leading to \$1.8M reduction of cost (~5.8% of total budget);

We need to engage with **student leadership** and faculty senates in advocating for institutional support of open and equitable solutions.

Opportunity for libraries - and institutions – to significantly **change negotiating position** with publishers.

Break **commercial** publisher publisher
stranglehold – and **reinvest** in
community-controlled solutions

Libraries must **have a plan** in place to
secure **strategic support** from
institutional leadership for community
controlled, open and equitable
scholarly communications options

Resist the urge to reflexively
lock down or control access or
reuse

We have to **be** crystal **clear** about
what the **future system** of research
communication we want looks like.

Move away from a commercial, market-based system toward:



Knowledge as public good

Shared openly,
not locked behind
commercial walls



Open by default equitable by design

Access and reuse
built into every
layer of the system



Community- owned & governed

Communities set
norms, rules, and
best practices for
knowledge production
and sharing

“Equitable by design” matters.

Our day-to-day **work** is a potent form
of **advocacy**.



Thank You.