

How the Elsevier Big Deal sparked a rampage at Cambridge

Dr Corina Logan

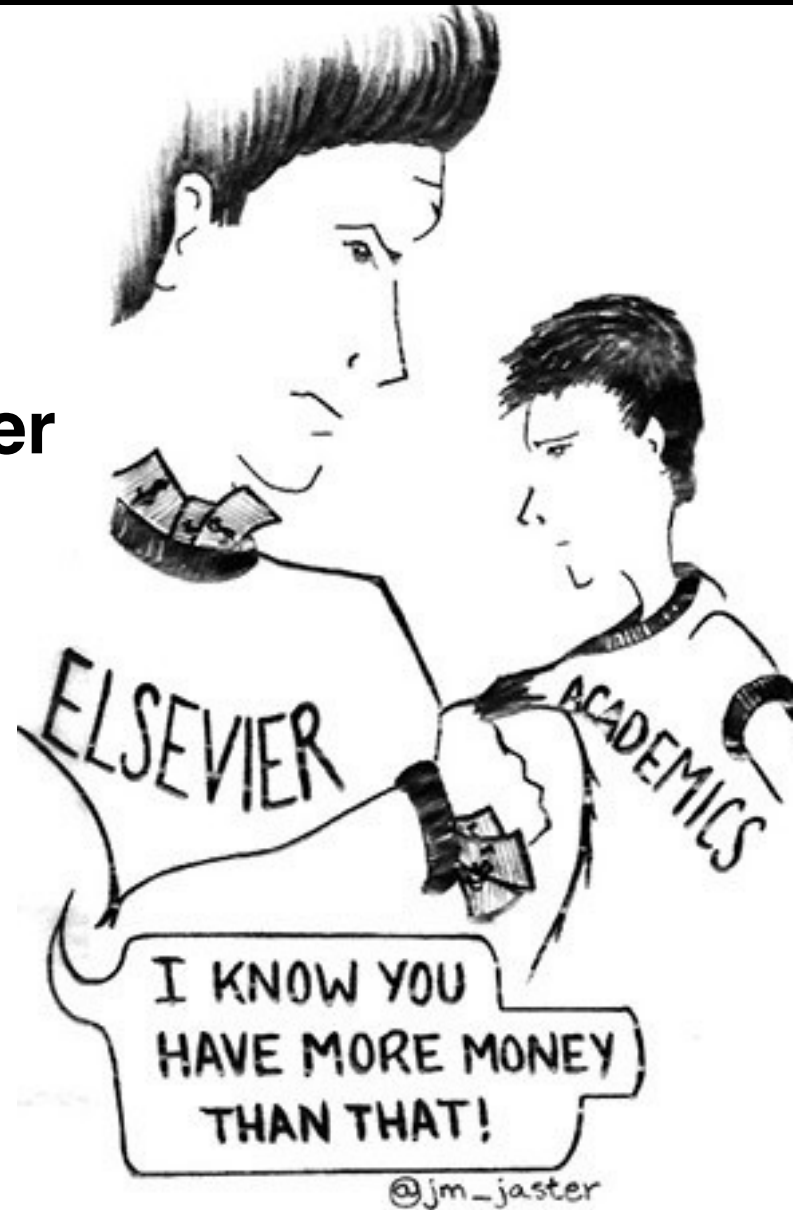
Leverhulme Early Career Researcher

@LoganCorina #Rampage2017

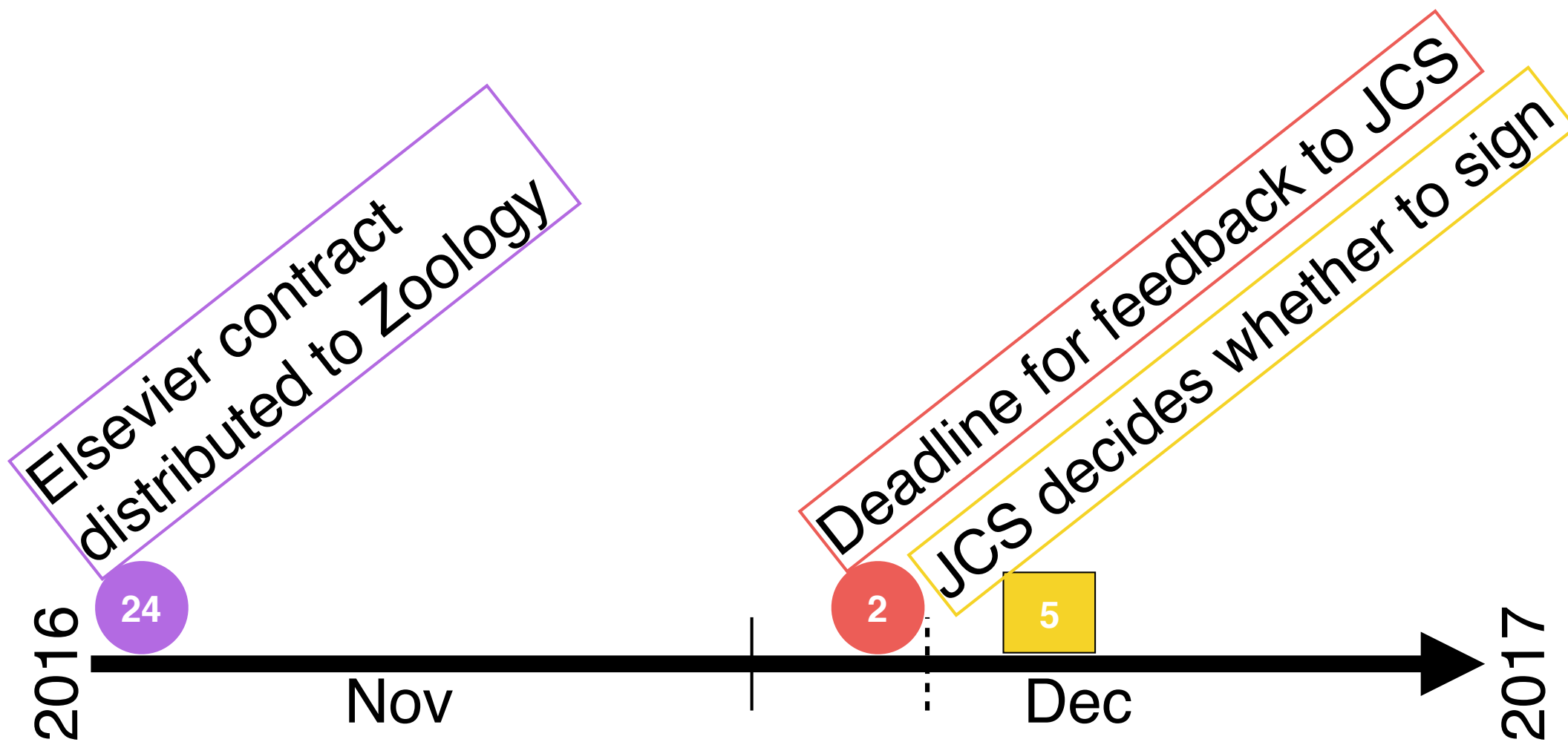


UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

*Big Deal = buy many journals
bundled together for one price*



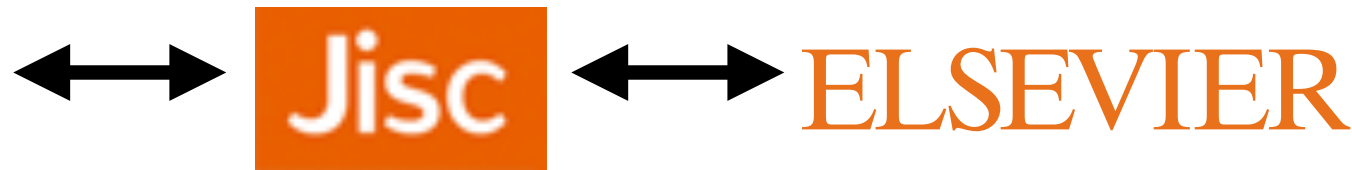
PRE-signing rampage: do NOT sign Elsevier contract



The players

160 UK
universities

*~£40 million/yr
to Elsevier*

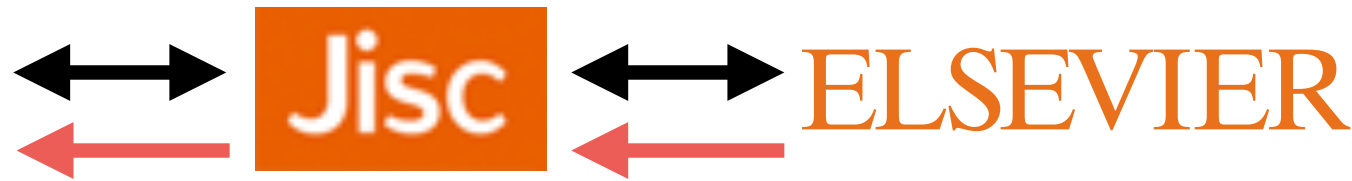


- 1) No cost increase
- 2) Offset APCs
- 3) No confidentiality
- 4) 3yr contract, not 5
- 5) Pricing not based on 'historic spend'

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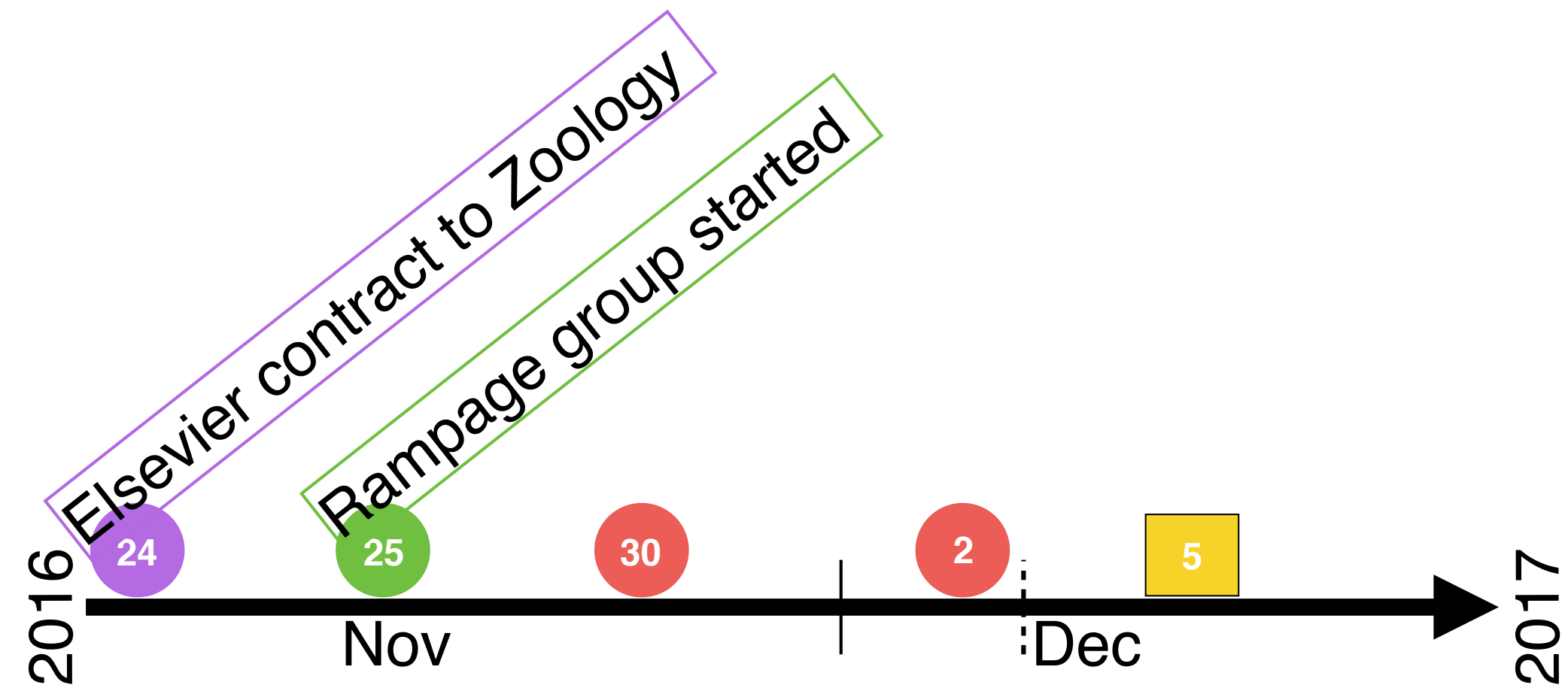
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PRE-signing rampage: do NOT sign Elsevier contract



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Peter Murray Rust

Chemistry



Stephen Eglen

Maths



Tim Gowers

Maths



Yvonne Nobis

Betty & Gordon
Moore Library



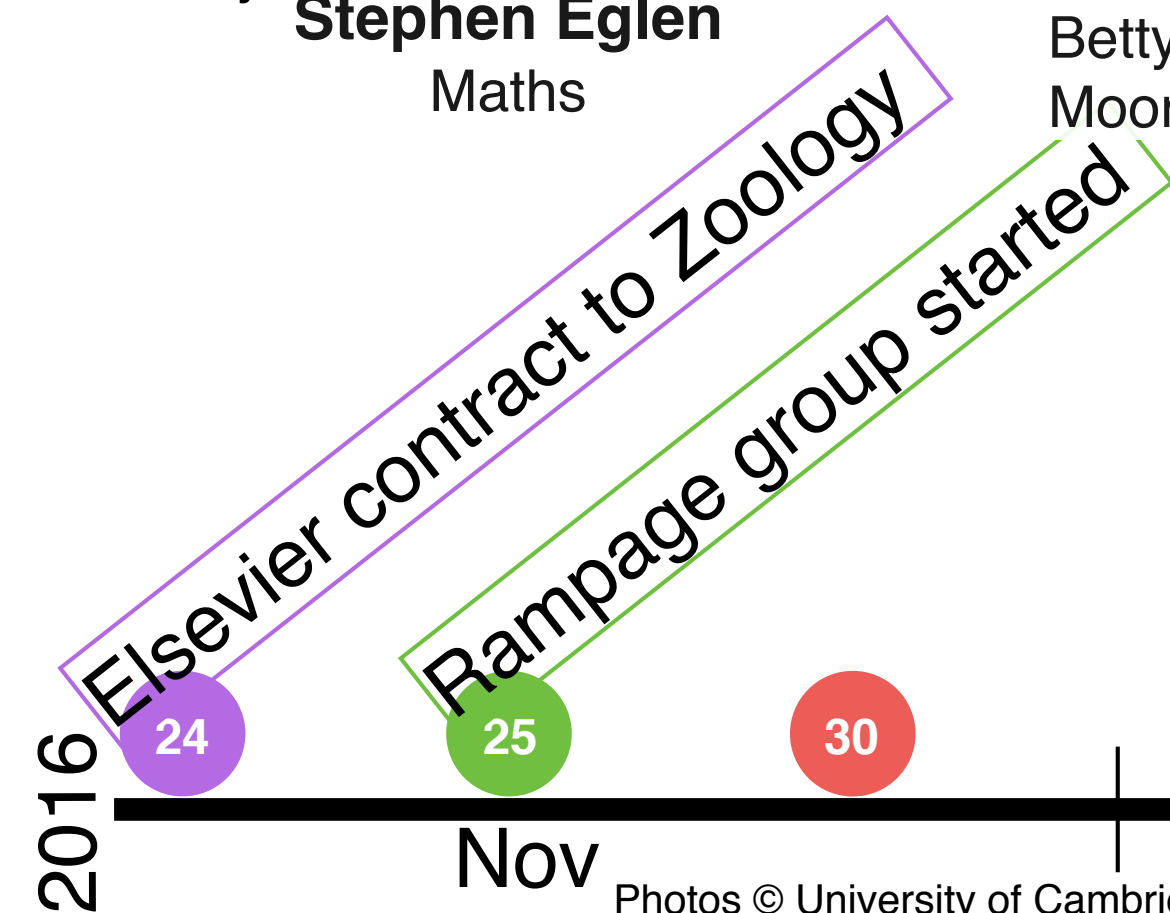
Rupert Gatti

Economics



Laurent Gatto

Biochemistry



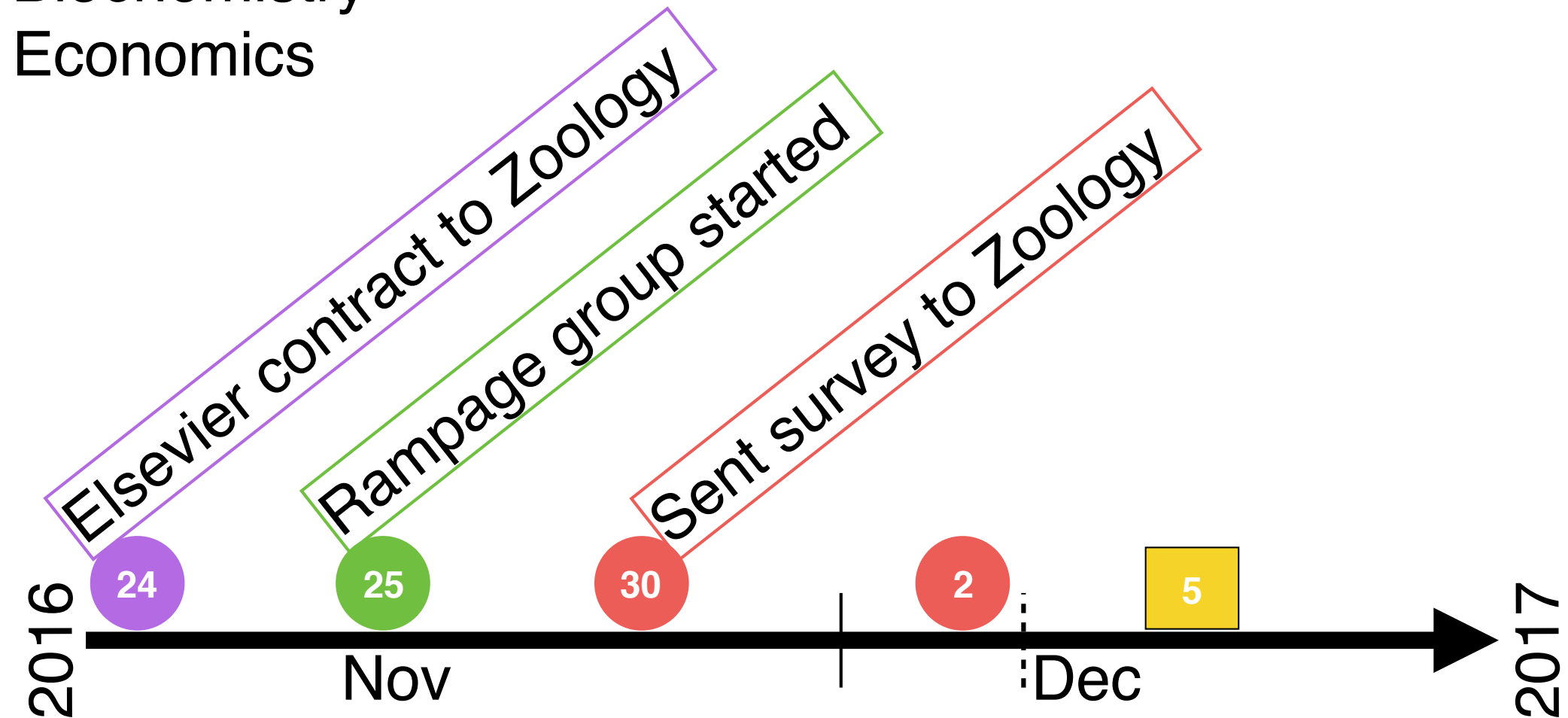
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Maths

Biochemistry

Economics

+ History & Philosophy
of Science, CRASSH



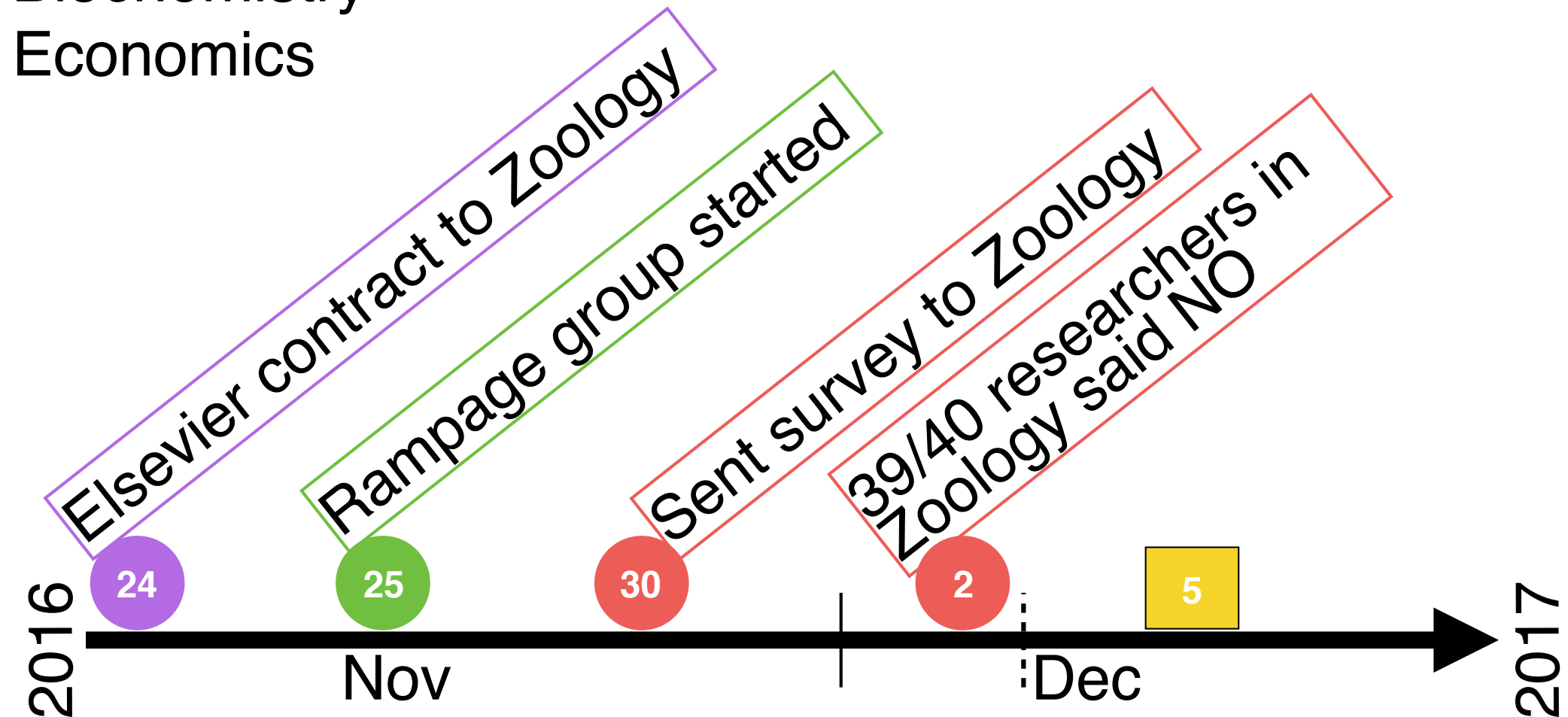
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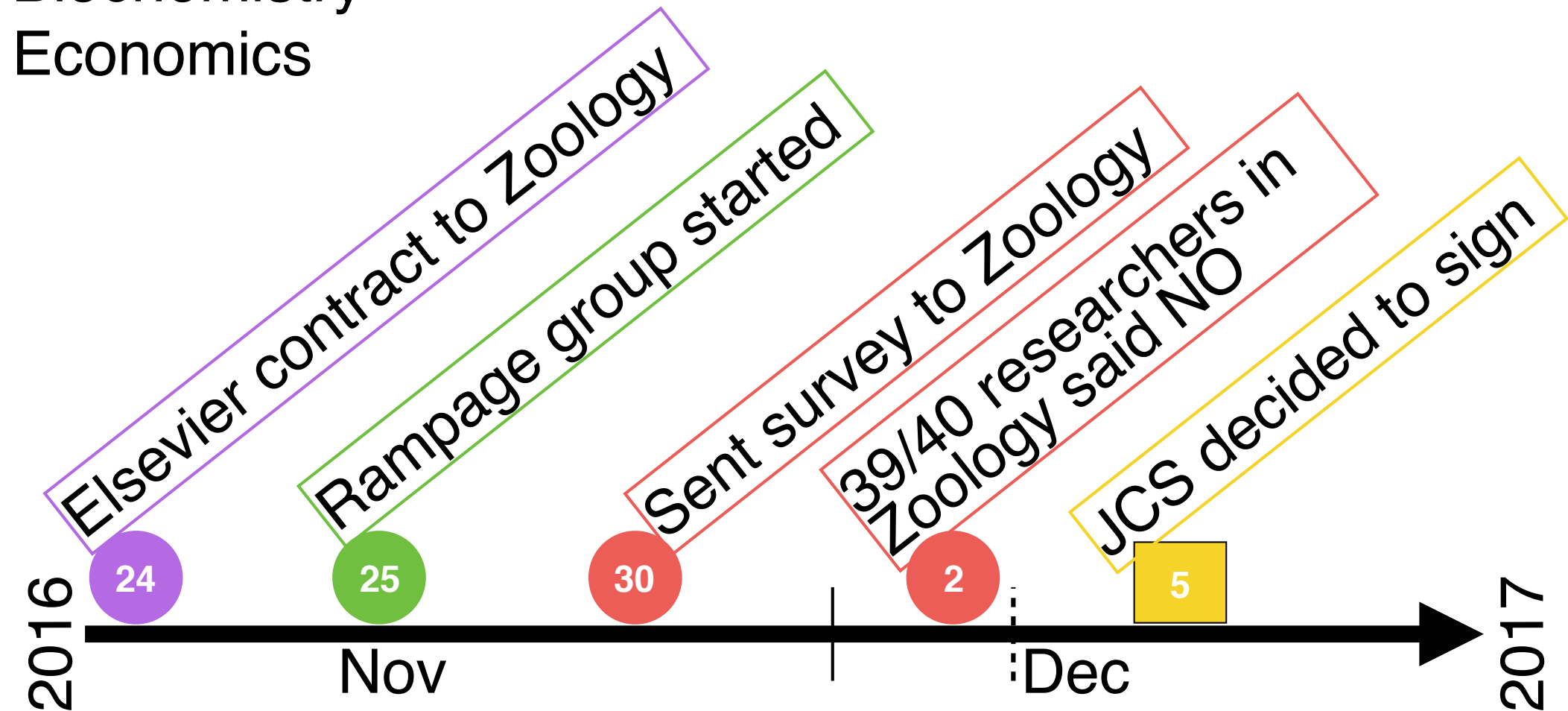
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Why the JCS says they signed...

1) **No Plan B**

(the JCS had 12 months to make one)

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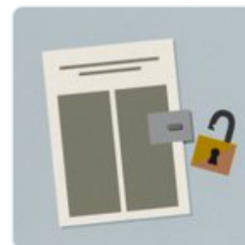
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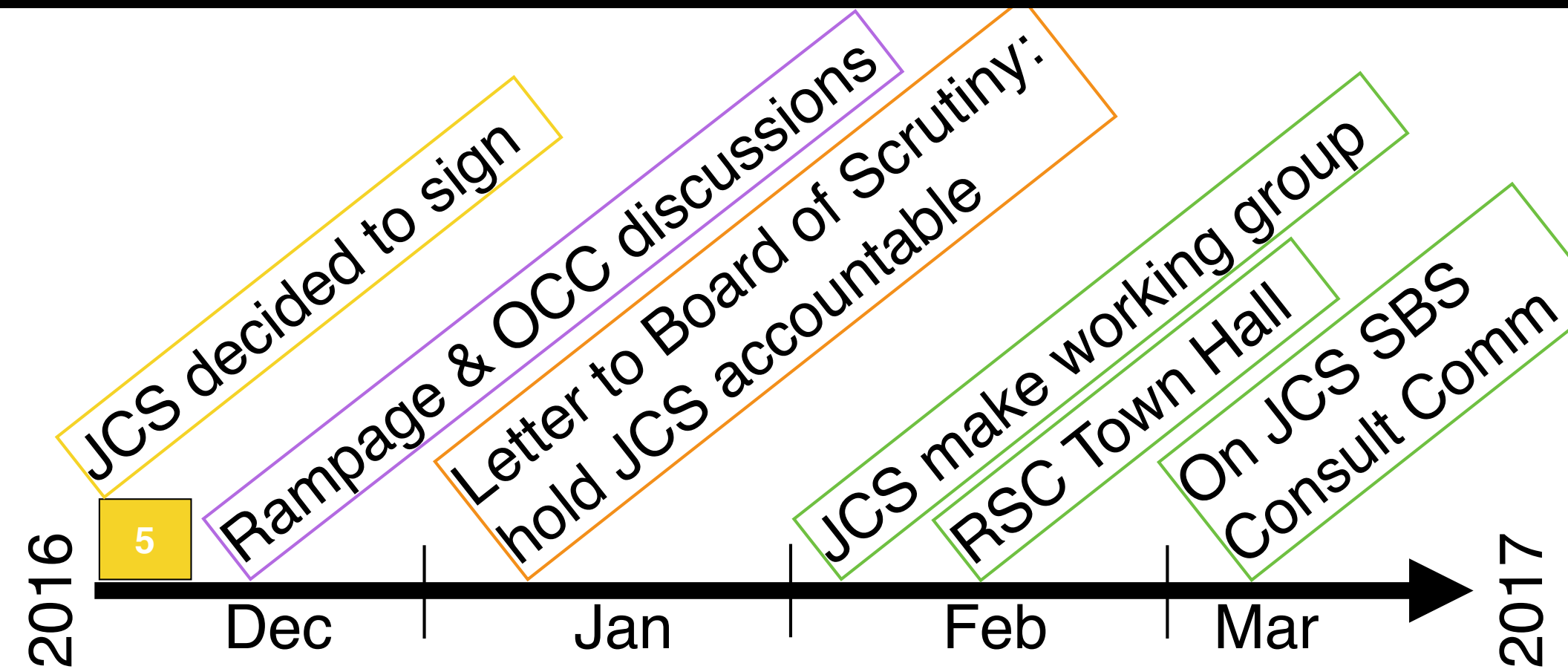
"Despite disruption, many German scientists welcome the DEAL consortium's firm stance in negotiations with Elsevier"



German scientists regain access to Elsevier journals
Publisher restores access as negotiations for a nationwide licence continue.
nature.com

+ Peru, Taiwan

POST-signing rampage: prevent future exploitation



Taylor & Francis contract expires in Mar, Wiley in Dec
Still no Plan B or consultation by JCS (Cam) or Jisc (UK)
Jisc still the negotiator (for all ~30 contracts this year)

What is in our future at Cambridge?

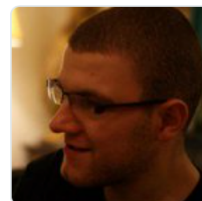
Massive cuts to journal subscriptions because we invested so much money in the Elsevier Big Deal



Cogsci.nl
@cogscinl

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#Elsevier reported to the UK competition and markets authority (+ an explanation why)
martineve.com/2016/12/03/ref...
[@Protohedgehog](#) [@martin_eve](#)



Referring Elsevier/RELX to the Competition and Markets A...

Today, along with Stuart Lawson and Jon Tennant, I have submitted the below as a complaint to the Competition and Markets Authority, making good on the advice of Ann McKechi...
martineve.com

RETWEETS

5

LIKES

4



3:36 AM - 4 Dec 2016



Corin@ Logan
@LoganCorina

153 UK unis spent £88million in 2015 & £95mil in 2016 on 8 publishers so we can read our own research. [@lawsonstu](#)



Journal subscription expenditure in the UK 2015-16

*Note: this is a work in progress - the data is not yet complete and may contain inconsistencies regarding the inclusion of VAT. Please check original sources on whatdotheyknow.com before...
figshare.com

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10:48 AM - 18 Jan 2017

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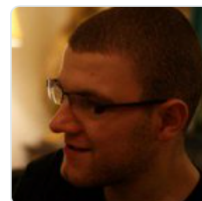
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Which publishers are cut?
Small ones that don't bundle journals into Big Deals



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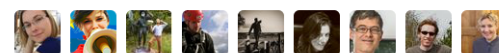
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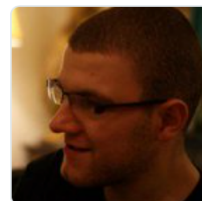
Status quo will be maintained by JCS & Jisc



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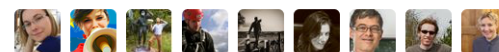
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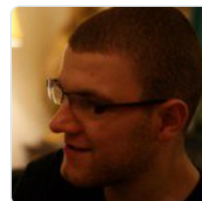
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We can change our behavior...

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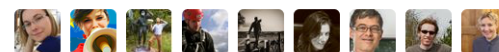
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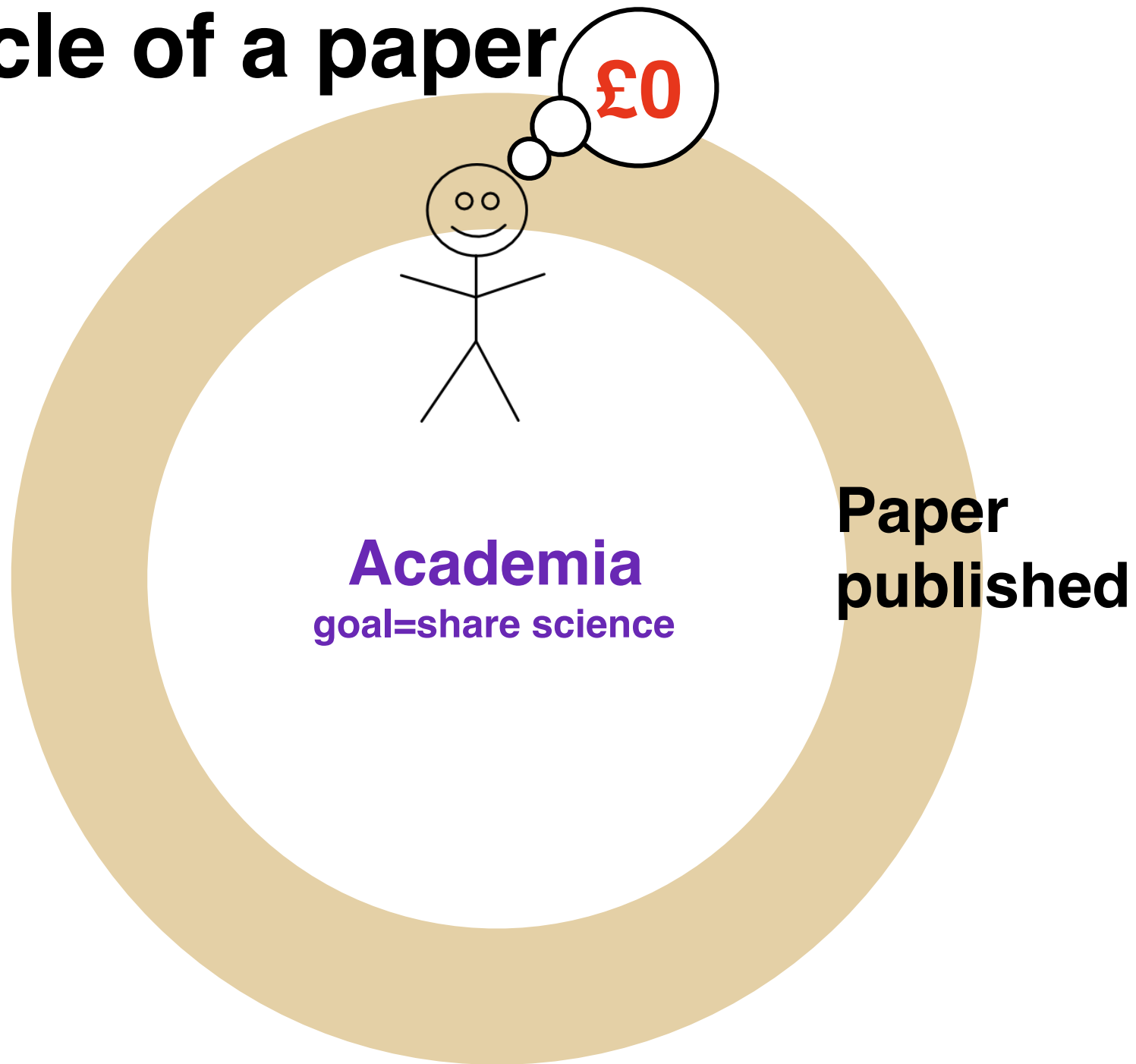
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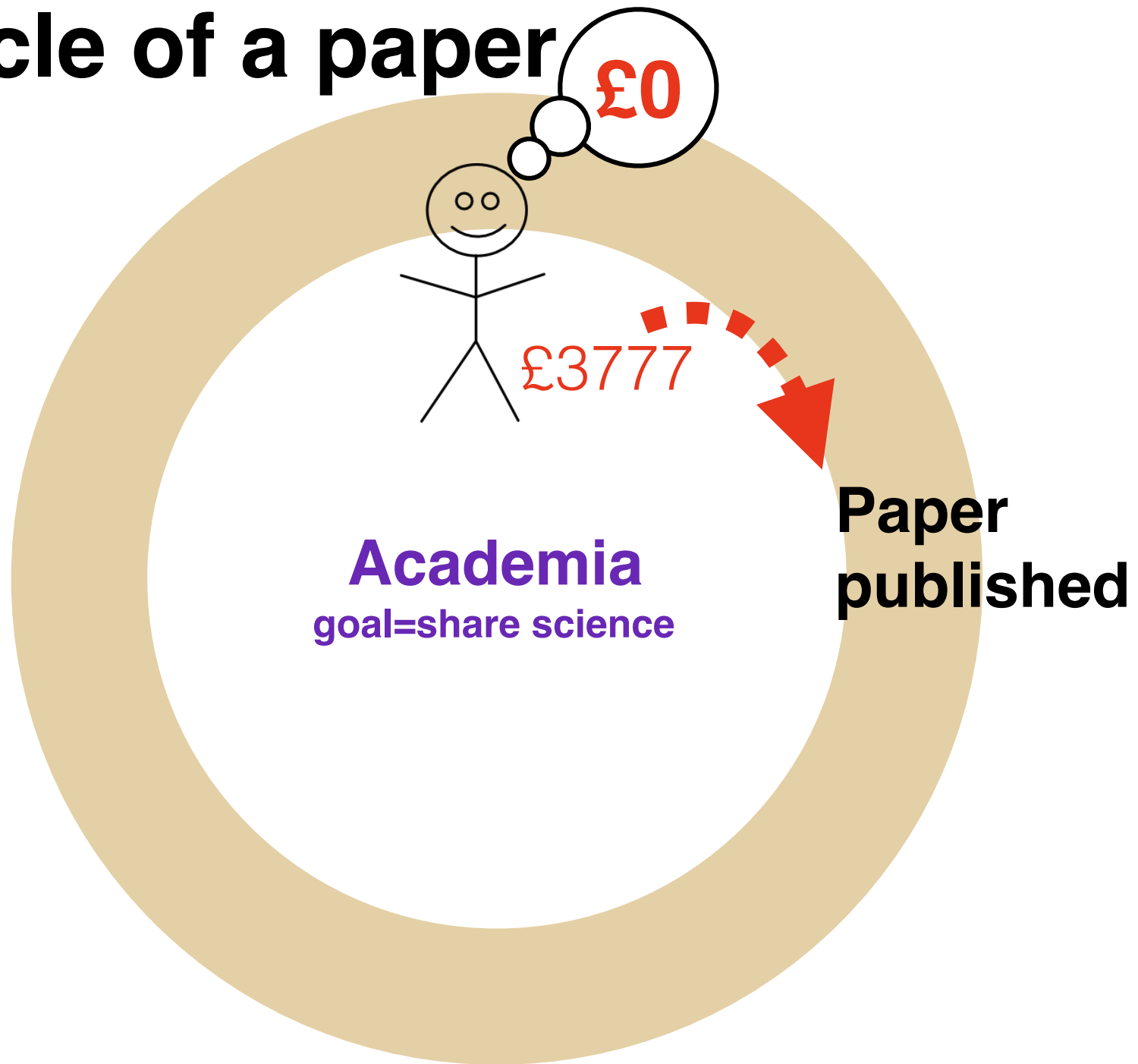


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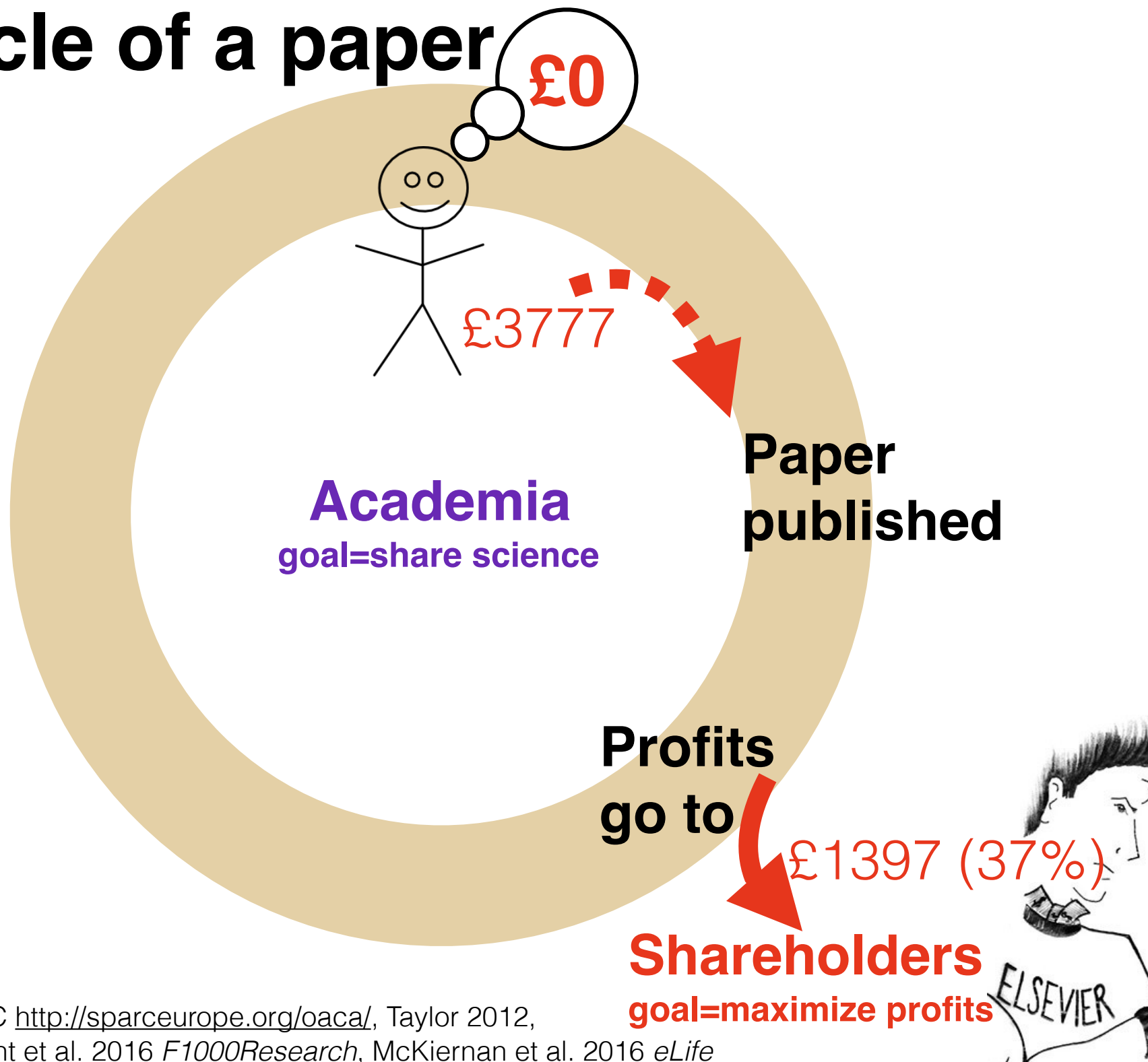
Life cycle of a paper



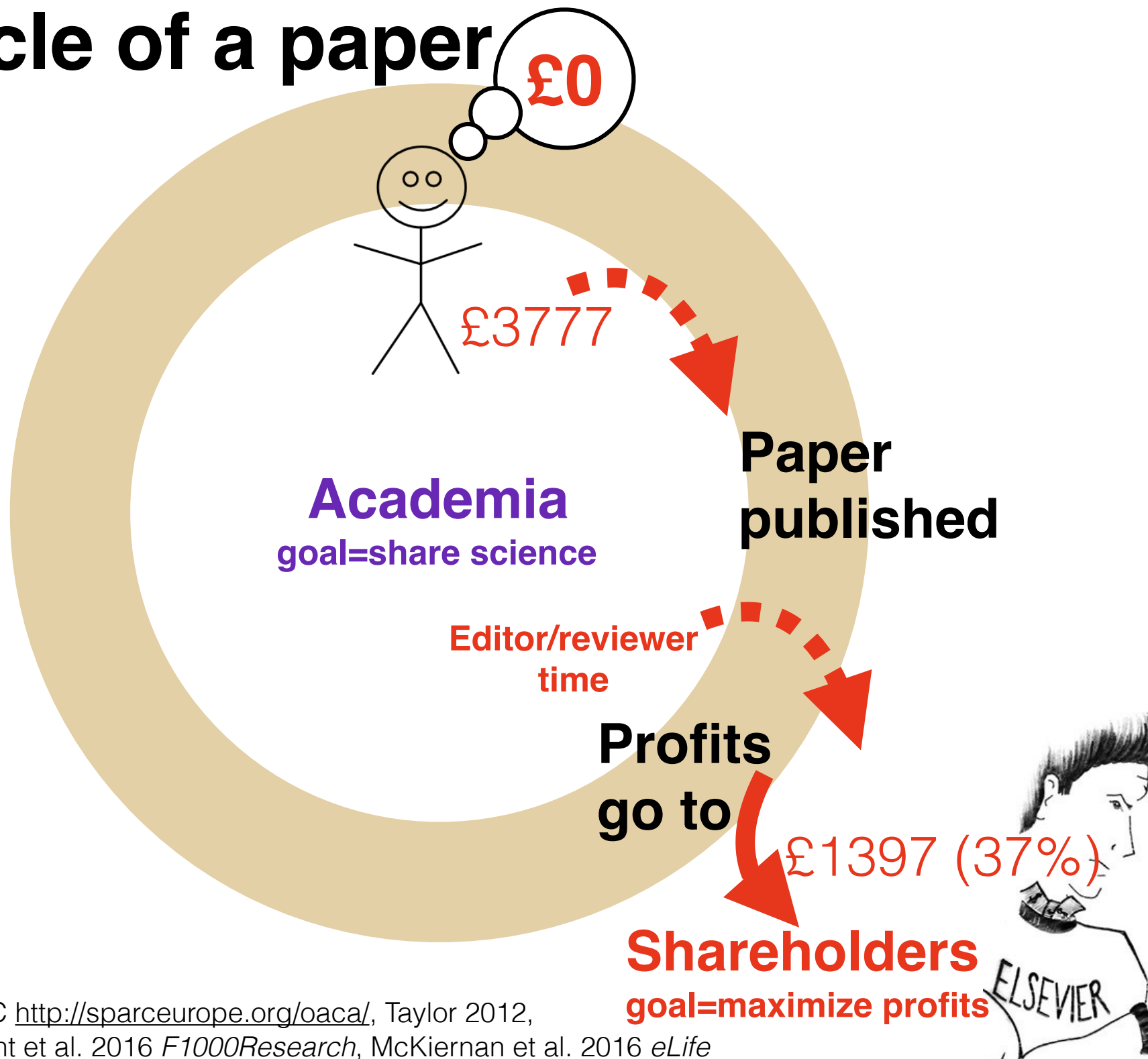
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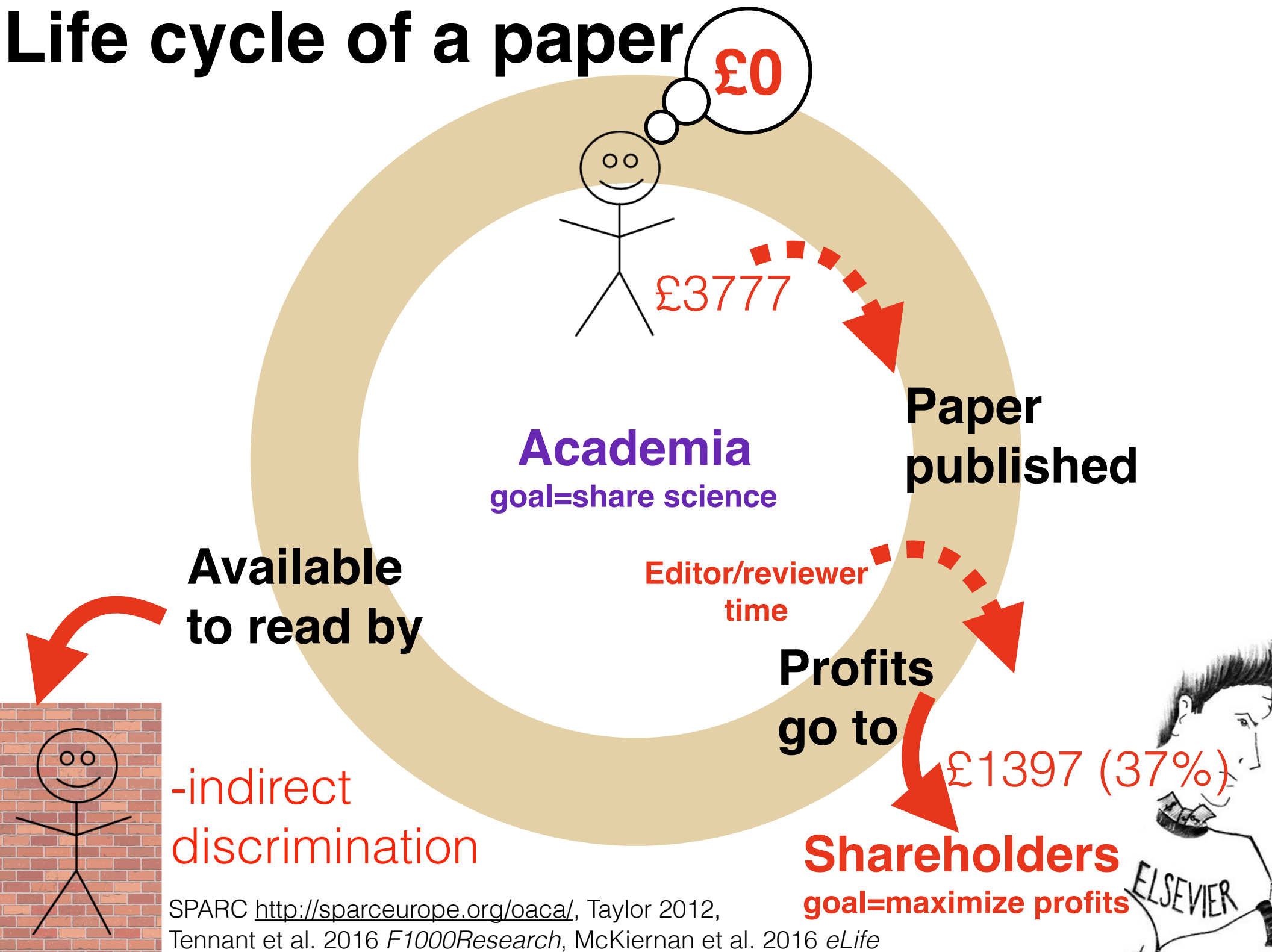
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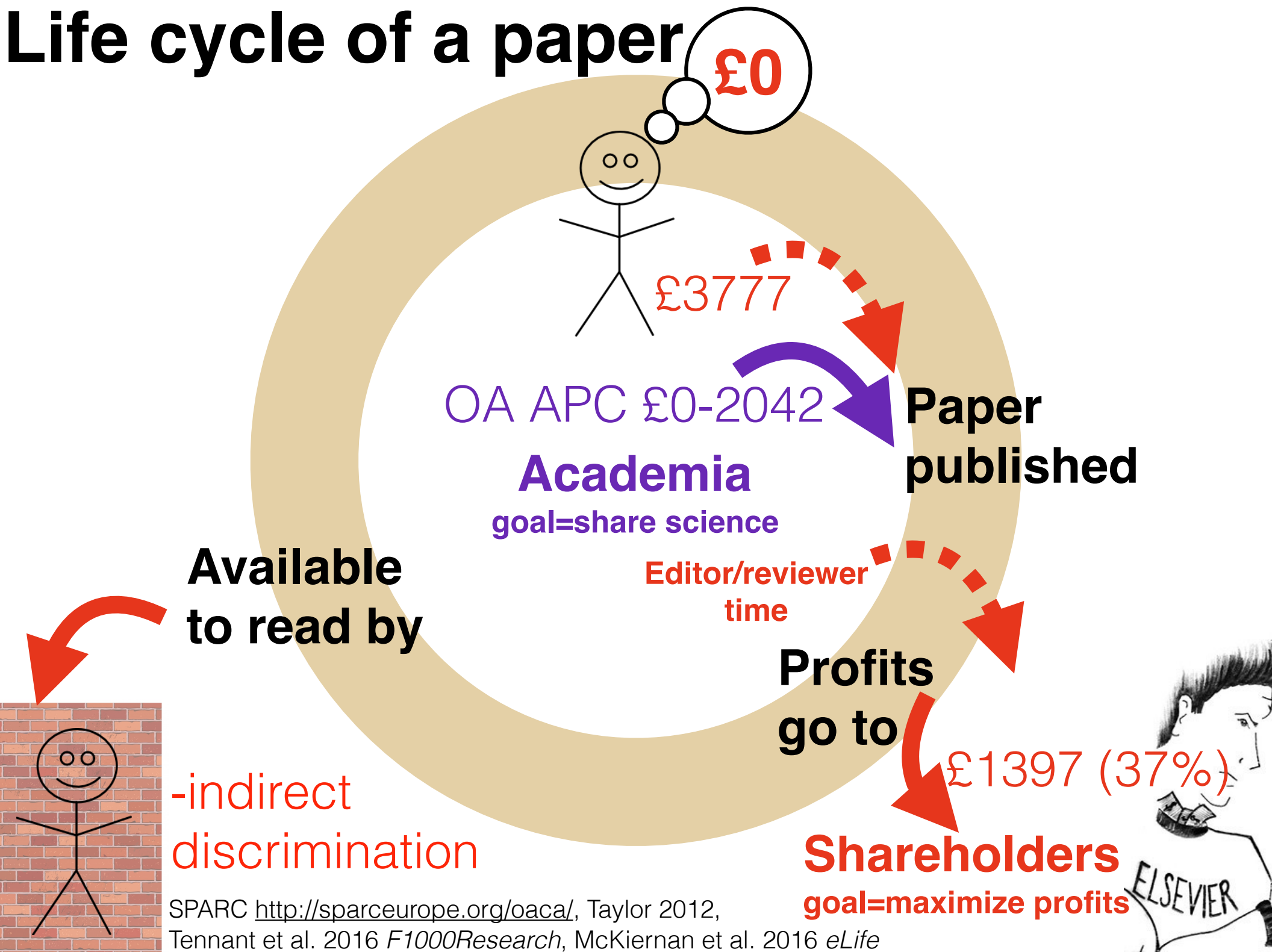
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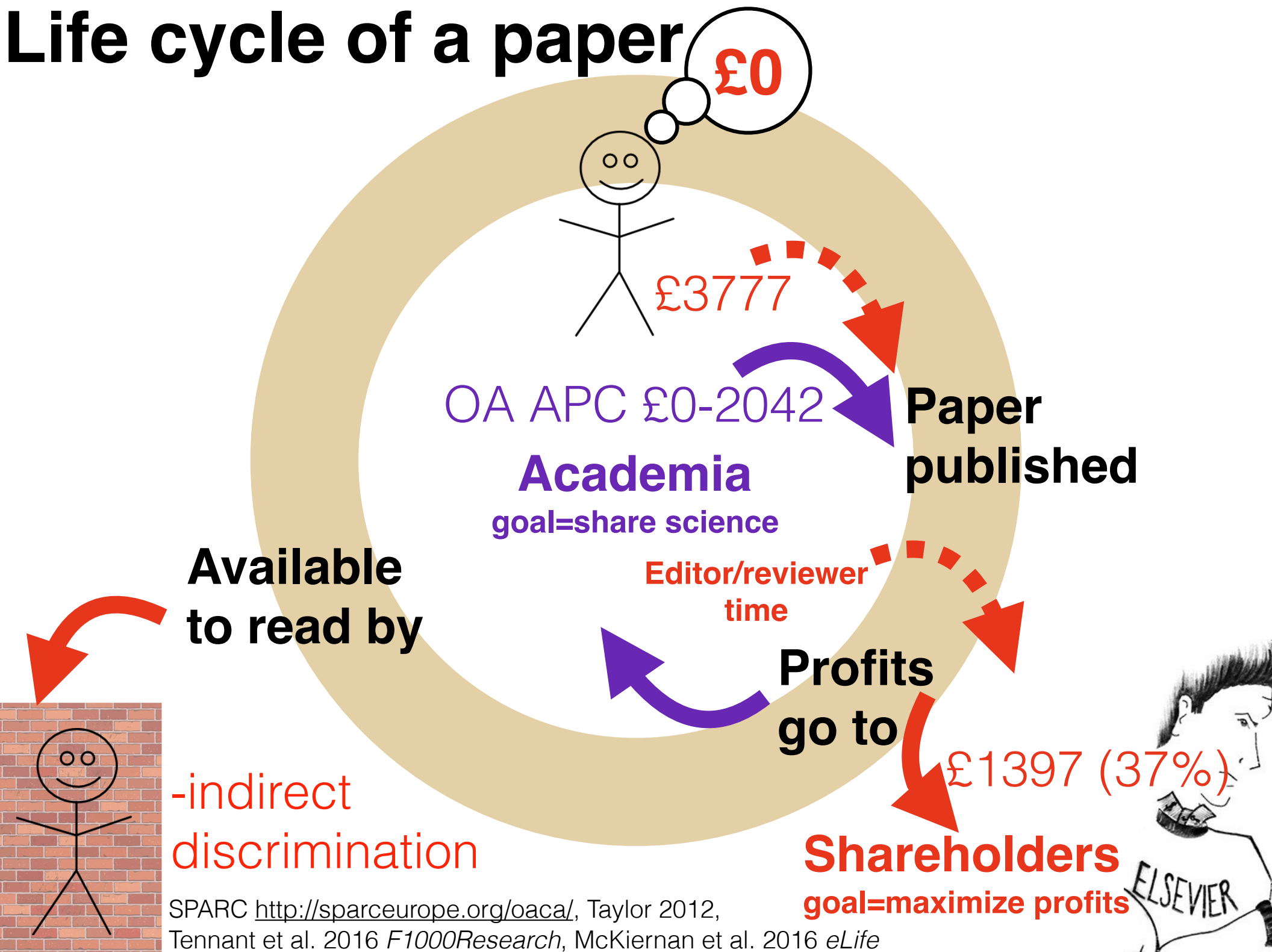
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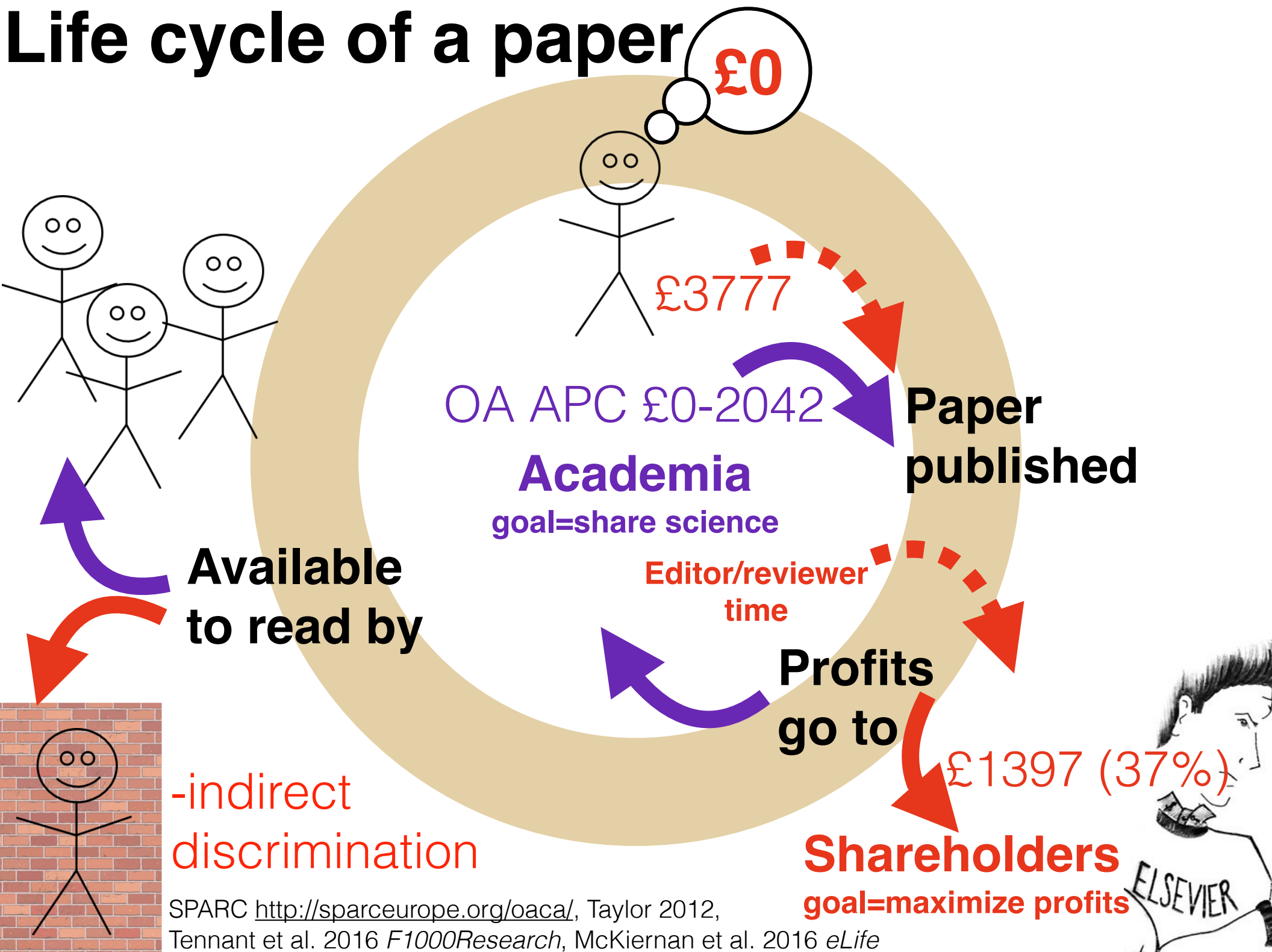
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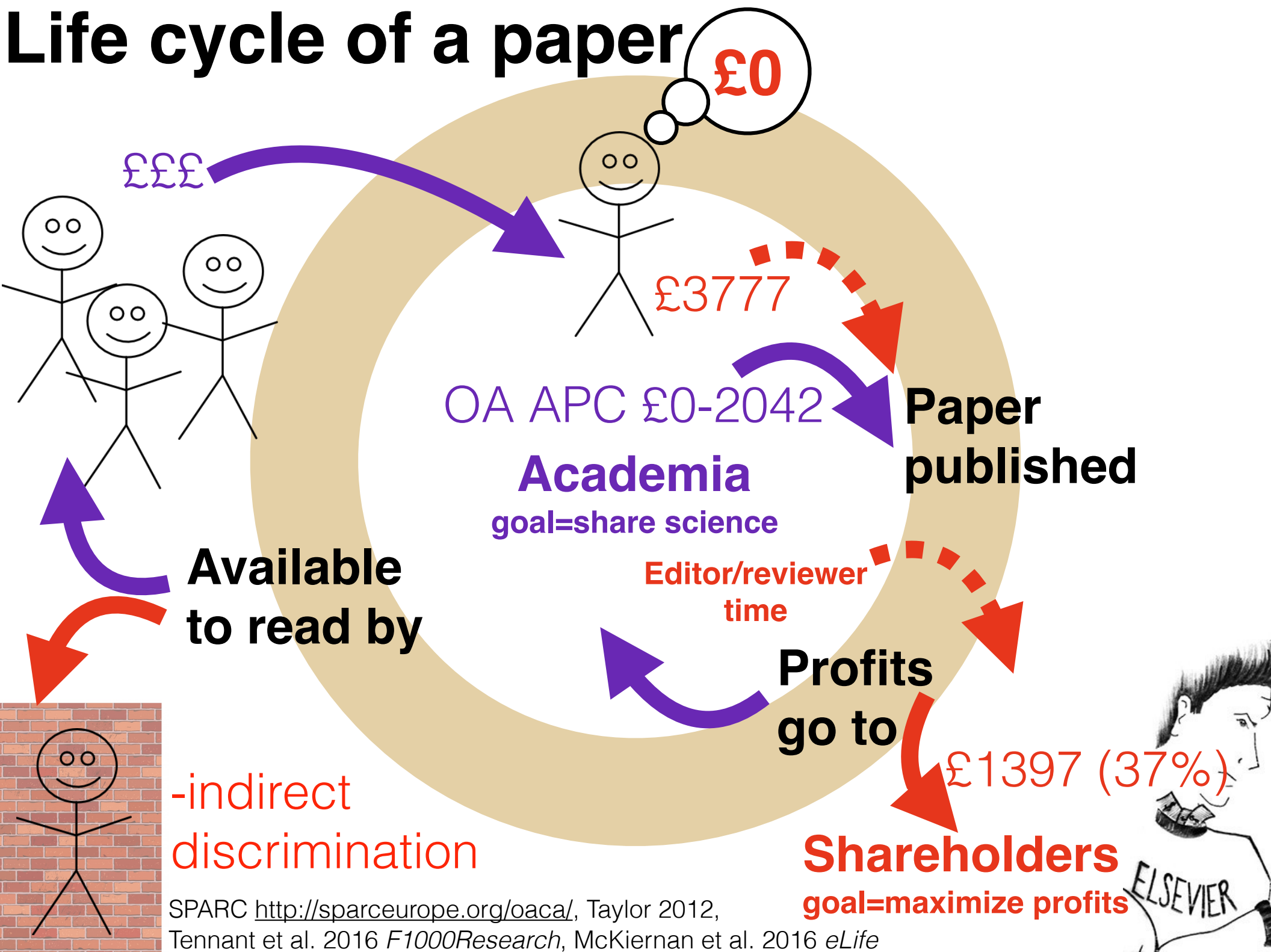
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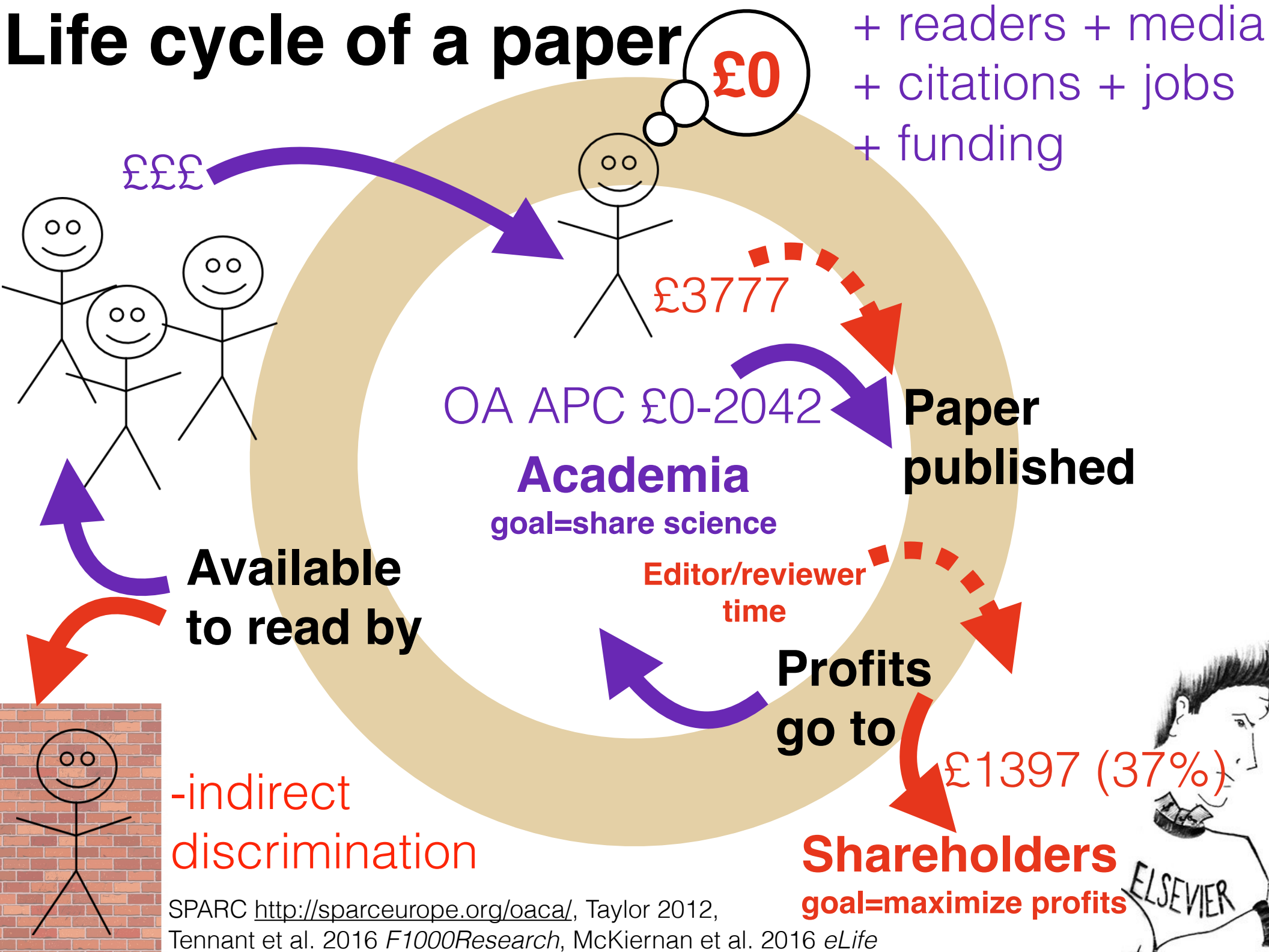
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Life cycle of a paper



Life cycle of a paper



(100% OA journals) + (at ethical publishers) align with science values

Journal	APC	Open Review	Society	Publisher
 PeerJ	(£151)	✓		For-profit
 eLIFE	\$2500	✓		Non-profit
 PLOS	£1135-2202			Non-profit
 ANIMAL BEHAVIOR COGNITION	£0		✓	Non-profit
 COMPARATIVE COGNITION & BEHAVIOR REVIEWS	(\$1000)		✓	Non-profit
ROYAL SOCIETY OPEN SCIENCE	£0	✓	✓	Non-profit
 Biology Open	£1134			Non-profit
Wellcome Open Research	\$135-900	✓		Non-profit
 scienceOPEN.com research+publishing network	\$400 or 800	✓		For-profit

McKiernan et al. 2016 eLife

Article level **impact**=what counts for citations
More **replicable**=papers can be longer

Fair,
improves quality

Good business=money
invested in academia

I have argued that:

- 1) Publishing can exploit researchers + academia and discriminate against who can read research**
- 2) JCS & Jisc will not put researcher interests first**

What can we (researchers) do?

Connect the costs of publishing with our choices

Change our behavior to stop exploiting ourselves and discriminating against others

...because all of the options we need exist now

For more information...

CorinaLogan.com/ethics.html

OpenConCam.org

Gowers 2016 Details on the Elsevier Big Deal

<https://gowers.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/time-for-elsexit/>

**McKiernan et al 2016 How open science helps
researchers succeed**

<http://dx.doi.org/10.7554/eLife.16800>

Thanks to Alecia Carter for making me question!