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Mirror, Mirror

The Growth of Mirror Journals

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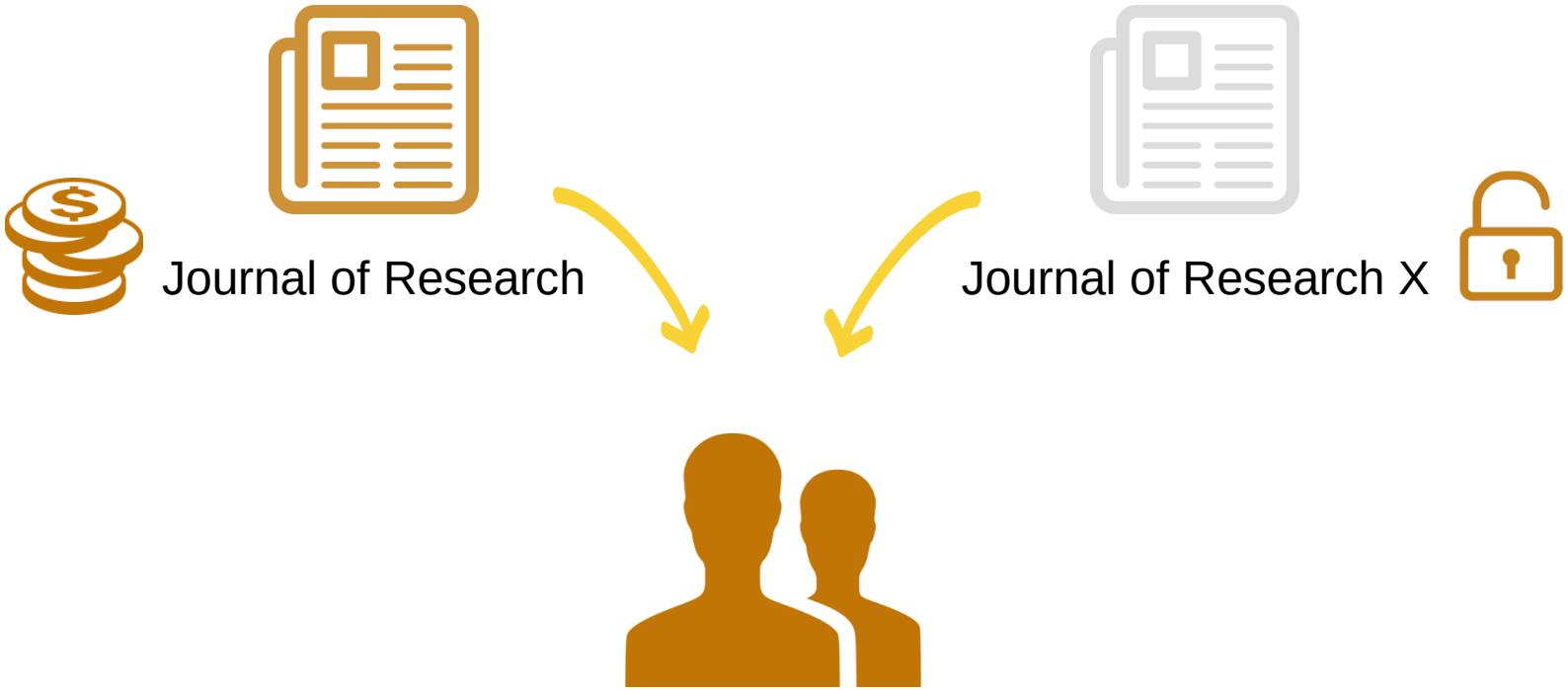
Topics

1. The what …
2. … and the why of mirror journals
3. How can they help?
4. Potential problems
5. Next steps

1 What are mirror journals?

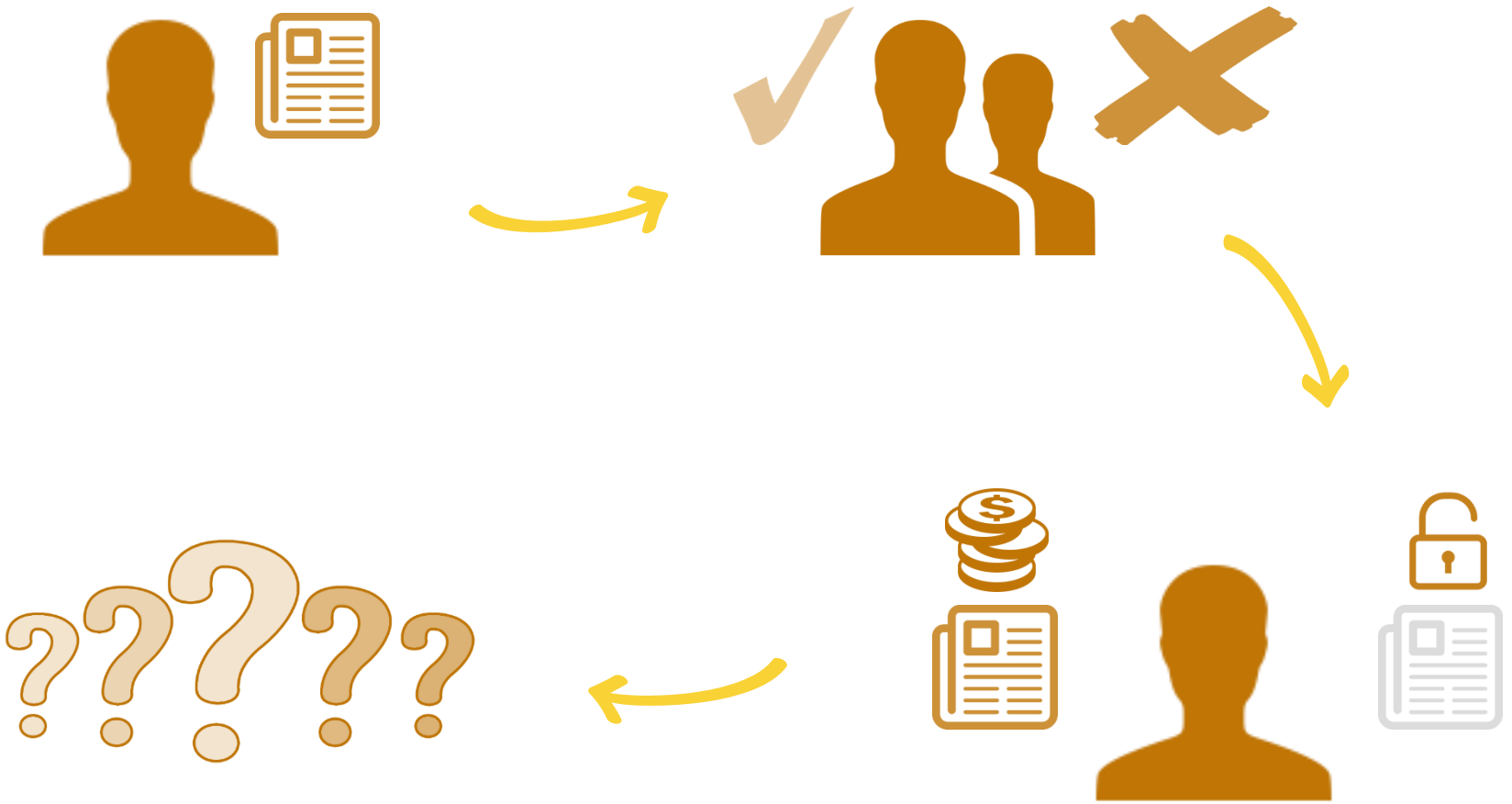
Spotting mirror journals in the wild

What are mirror journals?



Same editorial board, same mission statement, same criteria for selection

What are mirror journals?



2 Why are they needed?

Plan S recap

2021

"By 2020 scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants provided by participating national and European research councils and funding bodies, must be published in compliant Open Access Journals or on compliant Open Access Platforms"

Hybrid Open Access is not compliant with Plan S

Hybrid facts and figures

In 2009 there were **2000** journals offering hybrid options

Approx. **8000** OA articles published

In 2016 there were **10,000** journals offering hybrid options

Approx. **45,000** OA articles published

But most of the content of hybrid journals is not published OA

Up to **85%** of journals would be off limits under Plan S

Are Mirror Journals a Better Path to the Open Access Flip? Angela Cochran. The Scholarly Kitchen.

3 How can they help?

Prestige

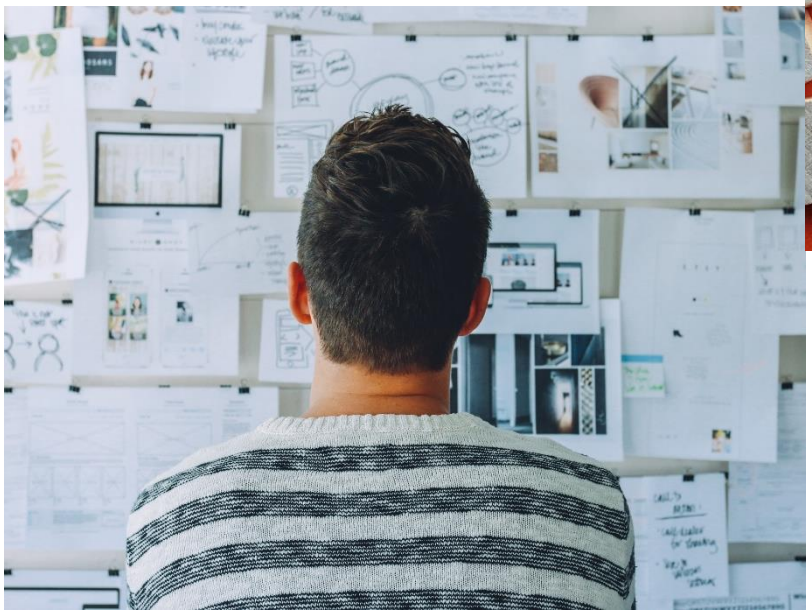
Researchers can still publish in their community favoured titles

Costs

No unexpected costs to pass on to researchers

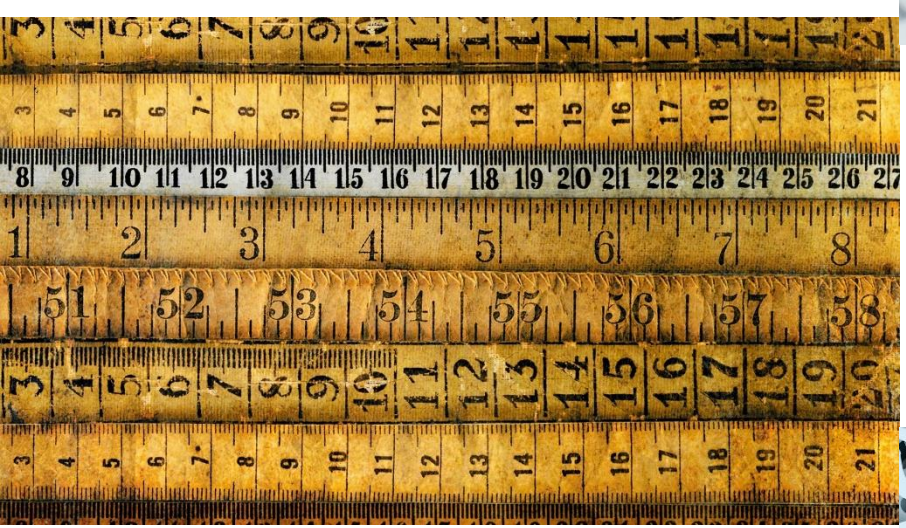
4 Potential problems

Plan S



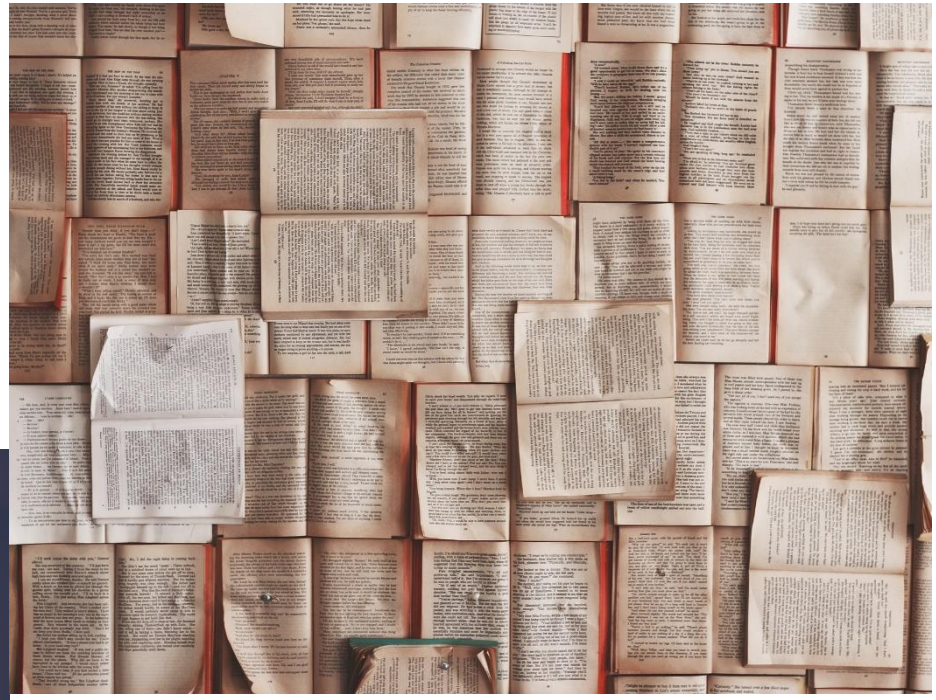
Are mirror journals just hybrid in disguise?

Metrics



Are these journals making the right type of impact?

Too many journals



Do we risk flooding the market?

The problem of predators

Can we help researchers avoid those who would take advantage of the confusion?

5 What next?

Next steps?

Self-portrait by the depicted Macaca nigra female. Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=36464057

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