25-26 February 2019

Researcher to Reader

BMA House, London

#R2RConf

www.R2RConf.com
Conference Summary

Mark Carden
Conference Director
Managing Consultant
Mosaic Search & Selection
Conference Summary
Conference Summary

• How can this be stopped?
Conference Summary

• It’s a simple job....

To turn this:

...into something simple and clear
**Conference Summary**

- So what's the theme this year?

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*25 – 26 February 2019*
Conference Summary

• So what’s the theme this year?

Summary & Closing

What does everybody want?

• Researchers
• Readers
• Institutions
• Libraries
• Reviewers
• Funders
• Politicians
Conference Summary

So what’s the theme this year?

Just do it’s complicated again, Mark
Summary

• It’s all a bit of a mess
• It used to be simple
• But now it is complicated
Some presentations were disturbing

**INDIA - CASE STUDY**

- India's spending on R&D in terms of percentage of GDP has been stagnant at 0.6 to 0.7 per cent in the last two decades
- Private investments in R&D have severely lagged public investments in India
- Between 2009-2014, annual publication growth was almost 14 per cent. It increased India's share in global publications from 3.1 per cent in 2009 to 4.4 per cent in 2014
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Conference Summary

- So what is the theme this year?

  “When the ends justify the means, all you get is the means, and you never reach the end.”

  But let’s try to embrace the means!
Conference Summary

• Hybrid is good
• Turbulence is good
• Disruption is good
• Conflict is creativity
But it is confusing

• Some of us are unrealistically enthusiastic
• Some of us have questions
• Some of us are just confused
• Some of us are distracted by other things
• Some of us just don’t care
It’s a mixed economy

- Authors are (now) thinking about their readership – it is the READER who comes first.
- But picking a journal is ‘a muddled mess’
- Funder mandates ‘solve’ this
  - but what about ‘broad’ interpretation of academic freedom?
- What powers do ‘superhero academics’ have?
It's a mixed economy

Where are my conversational homes?
What ideas work best in these areas?

- Promotion of research
- Citing early release of research
- Responding to feedback from publishers and readers
- Developing a media profile
- Submitting a manuscript
Barriers to Creative Hybridization

- Political mandates – Plan S
- Systems, Structures and Workflows
- Uncertainty about Copyright & Licensing
- Reward systems
- Ethics and ‘Robin Hoods’
- Geography
- Not following up roadmaps
- Impractical initiatives
Political mandates - Plan S

Plan S: Strong principles

- No publication should be locked behind a paywall
- OA must be immediate, i.e. no embargo periods
- Publication under an open license; no transfer/licensing of copyright
- Transparency about pricing and contracts
- No hybrid model of publication, except as a transitional arrangement with a clearly defined endpoint
Systems, Structures and Workflows

- Book vs Journal
  - technology
  - processes
  - organisation
  - standards
Reward systems
Ethics and ‘Robin Hoods’

• What sort of criminal gives away all their loot?
• What sort of politician gives away all of someone else’s loot?
• What sort of business gives away all their brand equity?
• Basically the narrative seems to be: Sci-Hub might be a dodgy criminal enterprise, but it is worth it to destroy subscription publishing and it will then just disappear
Geography - The 'Global South'

- There were two worlds in 1961
- Now it is both more homogeneous and very variable
Large teams develop and small teams disrupt science and technology

Lingfei Wu, Dashun Wang & James A. Evans

Abstract

One of the most universal trends in science and technology today is the growth of large teams in all areas, as solitary researchers and small teams diminish in prevalence. Increases in team size have been attributed to the specialization of scientific activities.
Not following up roadmaps
Impractical initiatives
Impractical initiatives Not following up roadmaps
Impractical initiatives

Not following up roadmaps
Barriers to Creative Hybridization

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- Ethics and ‘Robin Hoods’
- Geography
- Not following up roadmaps
- Impractical initiatives
And Machine Learning obvio
And replicability & teams
What next....

• We are all "Research Communication Enthusiasts"
Ta da!
Researcher to Reader

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