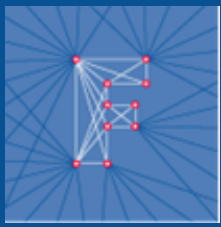


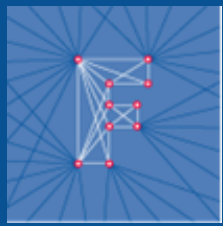
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Bas Savenije  
Utrecht University



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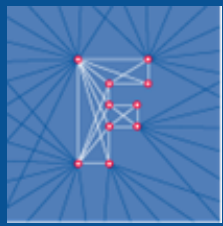
**“If I were you  
I would not start  
from here.”**



FIGARO

# History of the scientific journal

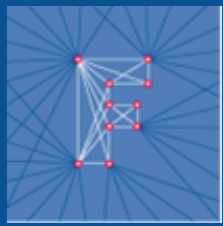
- Start: 1665.
- Journal des Sçavans; Philosophical Transactions.
- Background:
  - increasing number of researchers,
  - systematic, empirical scientific methods,
  - need to know the results of colleagues,
  - disadvantages of the book.
- Goals:
  - to improve the communication among scholars; something in between books and letters;
  - to create a public record of original contributions to knowledge.



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# Evolution of the scientific journal

- Growing emphasis on quality assessment.
- Growing importance of branding.
- Present situation: peer review and quality assessment are the central aspects.
- The journal's essential role is to enable managers to judge the quality of individual scientists.



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# The present situation

The present system of scientific journals has a number of problems:

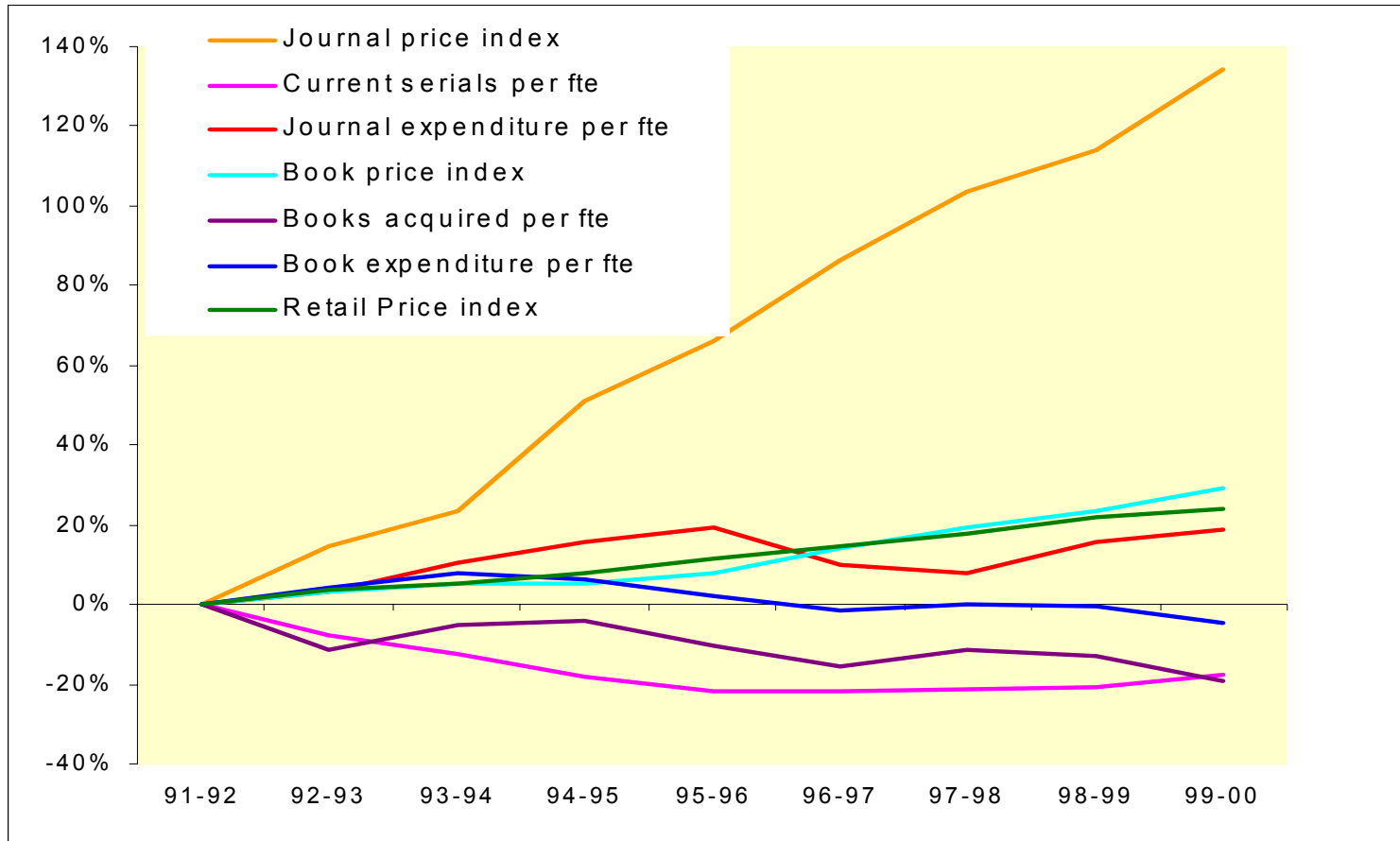
- the system is sluggish;
- there is doubt about the system's reliability;
- the system is (becoming) unaffordable.

## SAMPLE OF JOURNAL PRICES

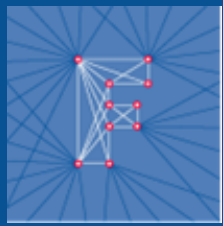
	<b>1995</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Brain Research	\$10,181	\$17,444	71.3%
Biochim. Biophys. Acta	\$7,555	\$12,127	60.5%
Chem. Phys. Letters	\$5,279	\$9,637	82.6%
Tetrahedron Letters	\$5,119	\$9,036	76.5%
Eur. Jrnl. of Pharmacology	\$4,576	\$7,889	72.4%
Gene	\$3,924	\$7,443	89.7%
Inorganica Chim. Acta	\$3,611	\$6,726	86.3%
Intl. Jrnl. of Pharmaceutics	\$3,006	\$5,965	98.4%
Neuroscience	\$3,487	\$6,270	79.8%
Theoretical Computer Science	\$2,774	\$4,608	66.1%
Jrnl. of Exp. Marine Bio. & Eco.	\$1,947	\$3,501	79.8%

*Uit: Mary M. Case, Pittsburgh conference 2001: Scholarly Communication. A System in Crisis*

# THE EFFECT OF JOURNAL PRICES ON UK ACADEMIC LIBRARIES



*Graph and statistical information compiled from the SCONUL Statistics by LISU, the Library and Information Statistics Unit, based at Loughborough University*



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# Innovation?

Innovation is complicated because

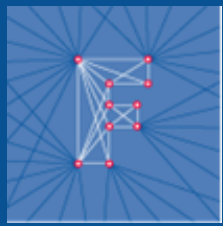
- commercial publishers are mainly in it for the money
- many academics want to stick to the traditional quality measures





## SPARC ALTERNATIVE JOURNALS CAN SAVE LIBRARIES MONEY WITHOUT SACRIFICING QUALITY

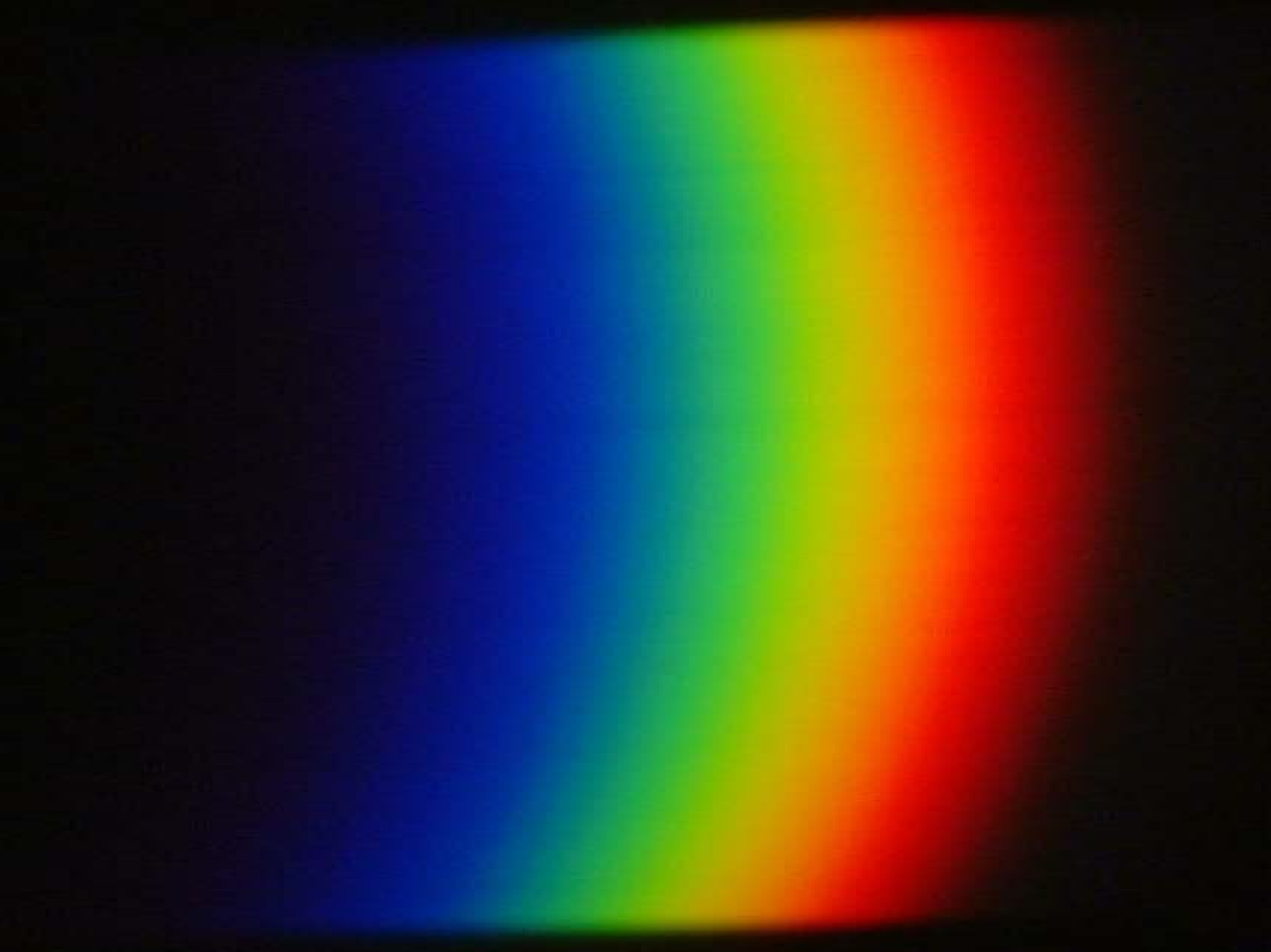
Title	Price	Title	Price	
<i>Topology &amp; Its Applications</i>	\$2,672	<i>Algebraic and Geometric Topology</i>	Free	<b>\$2,672</b>
<i>Journal of Crystal Growth</i>	\$9,220	<i>Crystal Growth &amp; Design</i>	\$1,781	<b>\$7,439</b>
<i>Evolutionary Ecology</i> <i>(price reduced in 2001)</i>	\$467	<i>Evolutionary Ecology Research</i>	\$340	<b>\$127</b>
<i>Topology</i>	\$1,303	<i>Geometry &amp; Topology</i>	Free	<b>\$1,303</b>
<i>Organic Geochemistry</i>	\$2,513	<i>Geochemical Transactions</i>	\$100	<b>\$2,413</b>
<i>Sensors &amp; Actuators, A &amp; B</i>	\$5,313	<i>IEEE Sensors Journal</i>	\$395	<b>\$4,918</b>
<i>Machine Learning</i>	\$1,050	<i>Jnl of Machine Learning Research</i>	Free	<b>\$1,050</b>
<i>Plant Ecology</i> <i>(formerly Vegetatio)</i>	\$2,861	<i>Jnl of Vegetation Science</i>	\$450	<b>\$2,411</b>
<i>Tetrahedron Letters</i>	\$9,624	<i>Organic Letters</i>	\$2,609	<b>\$7,015</b>
<i>Chemical Physics Letters</i>	\$10,264	<i>PhysChemComm</i>	\$100	<b>\$10,164</b>
<i>Jnl of Logic &amp; Algebraic Programming</i>	\$747	<i>Theory &amp; Practice of Logic Programming</i>	\$300	<b>\$447</b>
	<b>\$46,034</b>		<b>\$6,075</b>	<b>\$39,959</b>

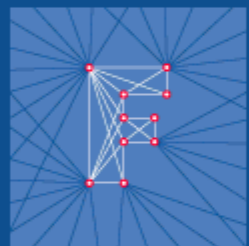


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# Present trends

- Incremental changes: print → electronic
  - by publishers themselves
  - co-publishing (HighWire)
  - new e-journals (academic community)
- Innovations: emphasis on communication
  - discipline oriented: archives, publication sites, portals
  - institution oriented: repositories
- A worldwide movement towards Open Access:
  - PLoS, BOAI, Open Archive Initiative, SPARC





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**History**

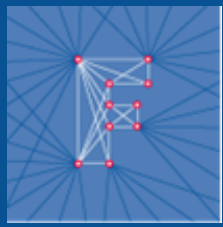
To fully understand our position and our purpose, a basic understanding of the current state of scholarly communications is beneficial. Here you will find a short history of academic publishing and the scientific journal, as well as some insight into the situation that sparked the formation of GAP and Roquade, the two initiatives that ultimately combined to create FIGARO. The name FIGARO is an acronym partially taken from the names of these previous projects: **F**ederated Initiative of **G**AP and **R**oquade.

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# “FIGARO”?

Federated

Infrastructure

GAP and

ROquade



Bookmarks Location:

What's Rel



# ROQUADE | ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING SERVICES FOR SCIENTISTS

*about the project*

*subsidiary projects and products*

*contributions: how to submit*

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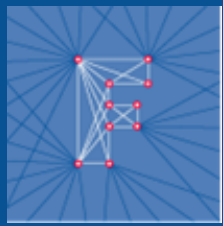
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Utrecht University



- Sponsored by: Innovatie Wetenschappelijke Informatievoorziening (IWI) -

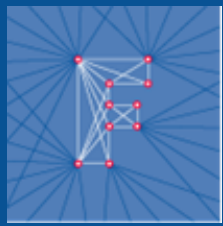


**FIGARO**

# FIGARO's participants

- University of Utrecht (co-ordinator).
- Core consortium members: Universities of Delft, Hamburg, Oldenburg, Firenze; Daidalos.
- Content providers:
  - Academic: Leuven, Lund, Delft Cluster, Firenze.
  - SME's: DiG (Poland), Lemma (Netherlands).
- Dissemination: SPARC.
- 1,4 million euro provided by EC.

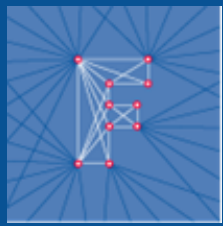




**FIGARO**

# FIGARO's mission

- As a partner organisation within the European academic community, our mission is to enhance scientific communication by improving the speed, simplicity and cost, which we aim to do through innovations in scholarly publishing.
- We strive to provide effective and efficient e-publishing services to individual scientists and scientific organisations through the use of a shared organizational structure and the utilization of open source and standard base software tools wherever possible.
- We are committed to supporting our customers by facilitating scientific communication and the publishing process in a way that allows them to retain ownership of their work as well as present their own profile or identity.



**FIGARO**

# Main features of FIGARO

- Providing an infrastructure for academic e-publishing that allows for modular use
- Facilitating a gradual transition from rather traditional to innovative models
- Not a publisher, in the traditional sense of the word, but assistance to scientists, research groups, institutes to become publishers themselves
- Decentralised structure
- Not for profit

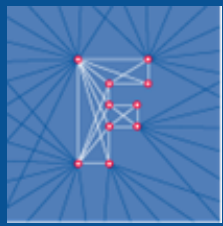
# Publishing services

moderated  
pre-print service

traditional  
electronic  
publishing

Publication site  
with peer review

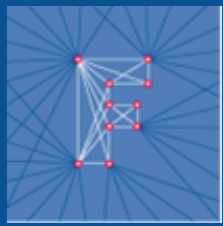
**technical and organisational infrastructure**



FIGARO

# FIGARO's business model

- Organisation
  - Network, not hierarchical
  - Strong input from customers
  - No central branding
- Economics
  - Not for profit
  - Preferably open access



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# FIGARO's network organisation

Service providers

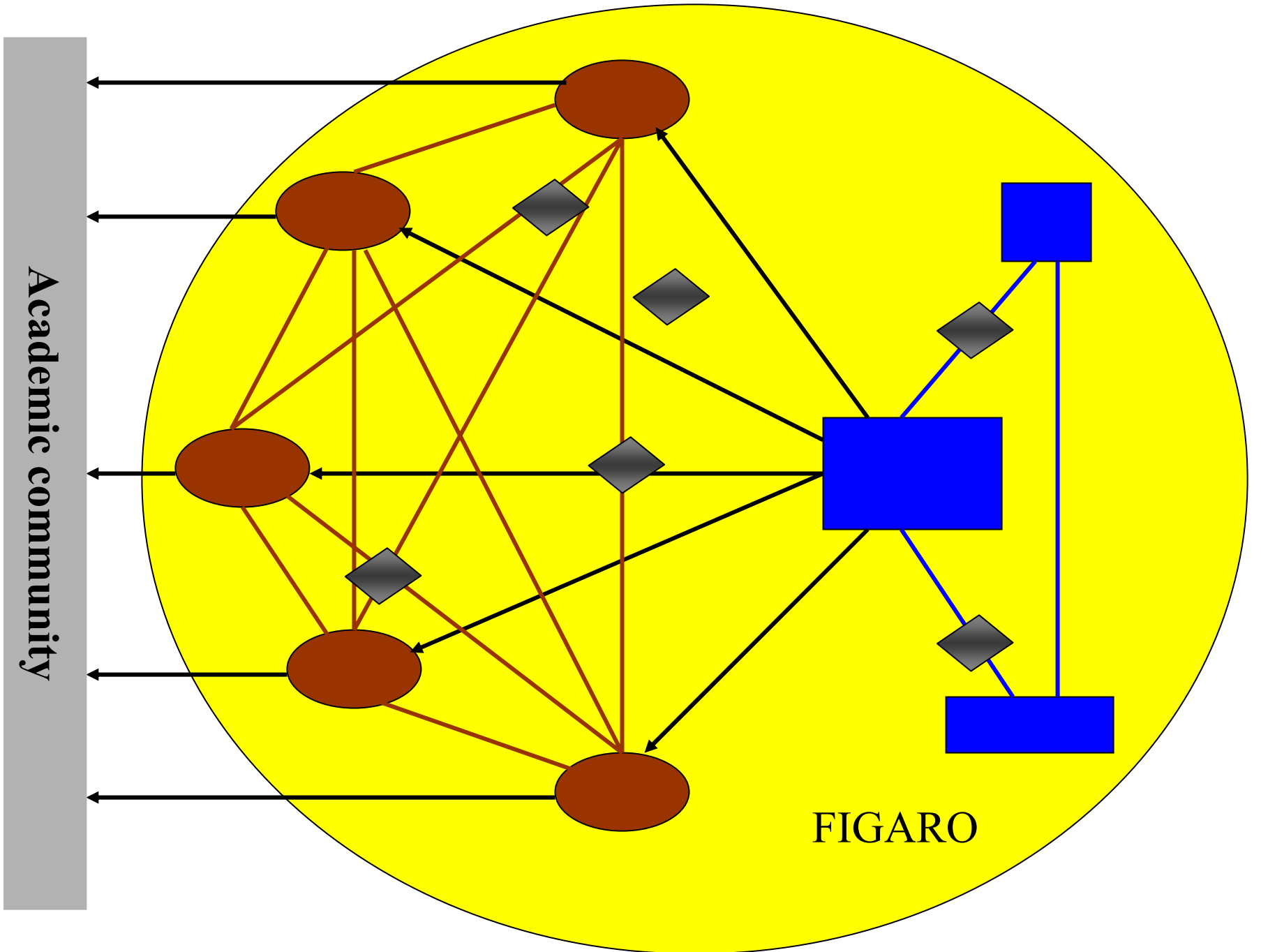
- back office of the publishing process
- maybe also other service providers

Front offices (university press, publishing company, library)

- intermediate to academic community (scientists, editorial boards, academic organisations, etc): franchisees

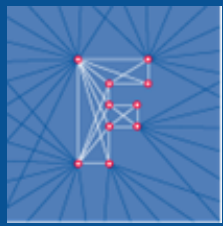
Co-ordinator:

- recruiting new front offices
- stimulating synergy between front offices
- regulating the dynamics within the network



Academic community

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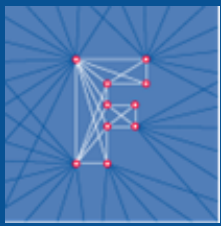
# FIGARO's financial model

The back office is a financially independent entity, working on a cost recovery base

- the costs for maintenance and innovation of the back office are paid by the front offices
- the higher the use of the back office, the lower the price

A front office needs money to pay the back office

- structural funding from its parent institution
- traditional model: subscription fees
- new models: towards open access

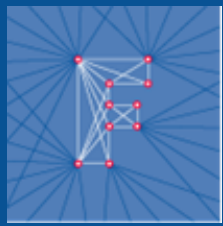


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# Open access: about costs

- “Open Access” does not mean that there are no costs involved.
- “Open Access” does mean that the costs are not paid by the reader.
- This is fair: actually, every scientific journal has some kind of monopoly from the viewpoint of the reader: the reader has no alternative.

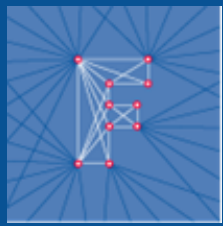




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# Open Access models: who pays?

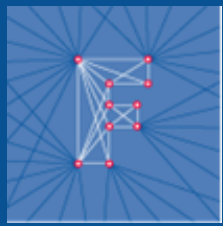
- authors, paying for publication (“IFWA”)
- authors, paying for peer review
- institutions or societies supporting a journal or site
- institutions or societies buying the right for their members to publish in a certain medium
- grants, donations, sponsorships



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# A dilemma

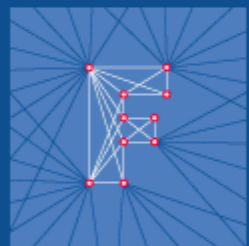
- It is rather easy to construct a completely new economical model for academic publishing, in accordance with the interests of the academic community.
- Its is rather difficult to imagine how the present economical model may evolve into this new model.



**FIGARO**

When everything is under control,  
you are going too slowly.

*Mario Andretti*



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### History

To fully understand our position and our purpose, a basic understanding of the current state of scholarly communications is beneficial. Here you will find a short history of academic publishing and the scientific journal, as well as some insight into the situation that sparked the formation of GAP and Roquade, the two initiatives that ultimately combined to create FIGARO. The name FIGARO is an acronym partially taken from the names of these previous projects: **F**ederated Initiative of **G**AP and **R**oquade.

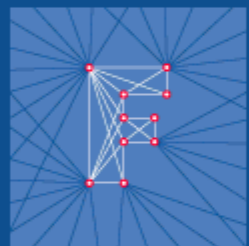
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