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The article discusses the importance of diversity in academic publishing and the role of JOSHA in promoting open access and interdisciplinary research. While traditional publishing often favours the 'consolidation' of work, JOSHA encourages authors to publish disruptive and innovative work that may challenge existing paradigms. With a focus on accessibility and freedom from restrictions, JOSHA aims to provide a platform for scientists, artists and scholars of all backgrounds to share their ideas and knowledge. By prioritising the needs of authors and readers, JOSHA hopes to revitalise academic publishing and promote the power of diversity in sharing knowledge.

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Abstract

The article discusses the importance of diversity in academic publishing and the role of JOSHA in promoting open access and interdisciplinary research. While traditional publishing often favours the 'consolidation' of work, JOSHA encourages authors to publish disruptive and innovative work that may challenge existing paradigms. With a focus on accessibility and freedom from restrictions, JOSHA aims to provide a platform for scientists, artists and scholars of all backgrounds to share their ideas and knowledge. By prioritising the needs of authors and readers, JOSHA hopes to revitalise academic publishing and promote the power of diversity in sharing knowledge.



Academic publishing hasn't changed much over the last two centuries. Most scientific institutions and authors continue to believe that only approval and consent of competing and not always sympathetic rival peers qualify any work for publication in support of an academic career. This self-strangulation has led to bizarre suppressions of some important disruptive scientific outputs, like, to name a few, the critical insights of Ignaz Semmelweis into childbed fever or the revolutionary conclusions of Alfred Wegener on the continental drift.

In contrast, the advent of electronic publishing associated with the consolidation of the publishing industry and the intensified competition in academia has distorted the scholarly work to less and less impact. Innovative activity is slowing (*Chu, J. S. G. & Evans, J. A. Slowed canonical progress in large fields of science. Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA 118, e2021636118 (2021)*). Since the late nineties, only "consolidating" papers can be identified in physical sciences, biology and biomedicine according to M. Park, E. Leahey & R.J. Funk (*Papers and patents are becoming less disruptive over time. Nature. 2023 Jan;613(7942):138-144*). Having analysed 45m papers and 3.9m patents that emerged between 1945 and 2010, Michael Park and colleagues viewed a paper as "consolidating" if later work citing it also cites the papers that it, itself, cited. That is to say: science along existing trajectories. For 20 years "disruptive" papers, like the Watson and Crick publication on the double-helical structure of DNA in 1953, were not found anymore. A similar decline in disruptive papers was observed in social sciences and technology.

As JOSHA's editors, we cogitate about the future of academic publishing and one very basic question deserves our most serious concern, i.e.: Why has science lost its disruptive force and what can be done about it on the side of scientific journals? Is it the low-hanging fruit hypothesis? Is it a possible decline in the quality of the work due to the pressure on investigators to publish? In essence, JOHSA's editors go all along with Park and colleagues: The most likely reason is that scientists are producing work based on narrower foundations and that they are inhibited in their ability to form creative connections between disparate fields.

We, at JOSHA, are convinced that humanity by far has not reached the end of science, humanities, and arts. We believe that disruptive science may daily be on the verge and must not be buried. Since its launch in 2014, JOSHA has published content in 17 languages from 185 unique authors. We offer a platform that is easily accessible to scientists and artists of all disciplines in order read and to tear down narrow foundations. Impact factors are not our area of focus; rather, we strive to



provide an open-access platform for authors and readers alike. Thus, we encourage publishing in terms of interdisciplinarity, open-access and free from peers and pointless restrictions. Therefore, JOSHA's appeal to authors in science, humanities and arts is:

“Write to satisfy your need to create your own version of a story and publish the story!”

We have no better referees than our readers. And don't forget: Knowledge that is not communicated is wasted. JOSHA is the place to go!