Journal Flipping as a scientific community experience: convergence, disagreements and conflicts

PUBMET 2026 – Zadar, 9-11 September

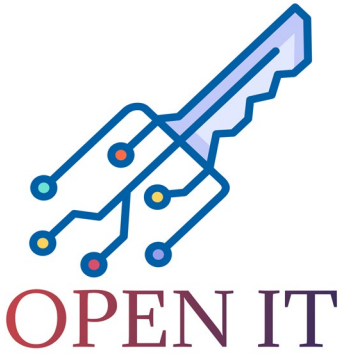
The 13th Conference on Scholarly Communication in the Context of Open Science

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Contexte of the Research

***OPEN IT* ANR Research Project - "Ouvrir les Publications pour une Édition Nouvelle, Inclusive et Transparente"** (*led by Abdelghani MADDI*)

- Analysis of Changes in Scholarly Publishing
- Diamond Model as a core research object
- Developing Economic Models to Facilitate the Open Circulation of Knowledge



WP3 "Journals Transitioning to or from Open Access Models"

- Flipping Journals as a research object
- (Solomon et al., 2016) : Flipping starting definition
- Identifying Factors Influencing the Transition Process
- Similarities and Differences in Journal Trajectories



How does a scientific community navigate the experience of journal flipping?

Choosing a qualitative approach

- Semi-structured interviews with Editors in chiefs and board members
- The flipping told by Editors own words (internal perspective)
- In-depth understanding of the phenomenon and its processes
- Flexibility and adaptation (when unexpected topics arise)
- **Journals selection criterium:** business models, discipline and domain, infrastructure, geography



Average duration: 1:30



January to April 2026



100% online



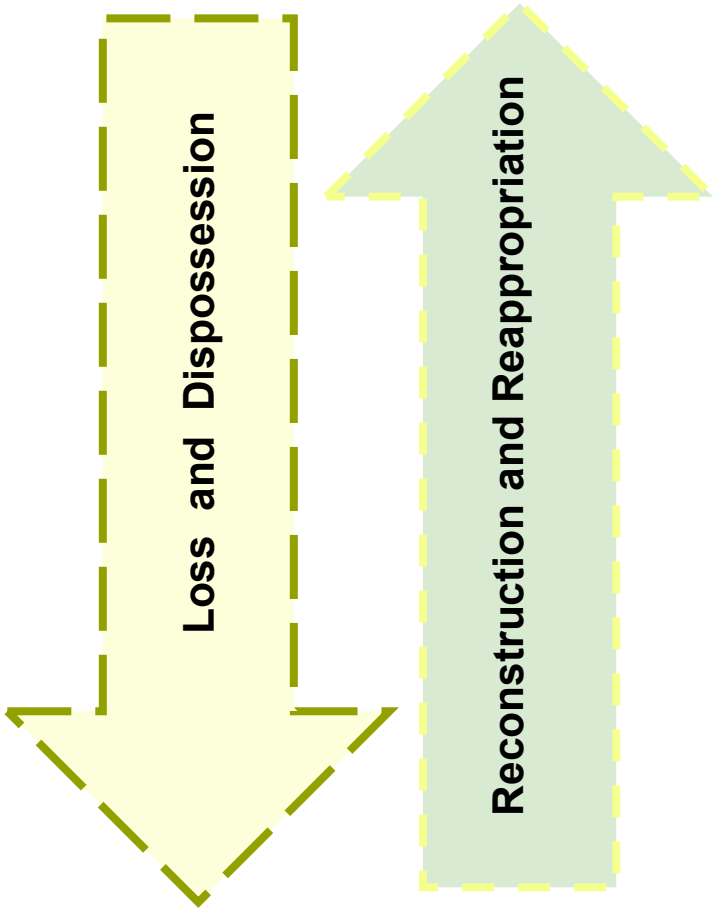
English/French



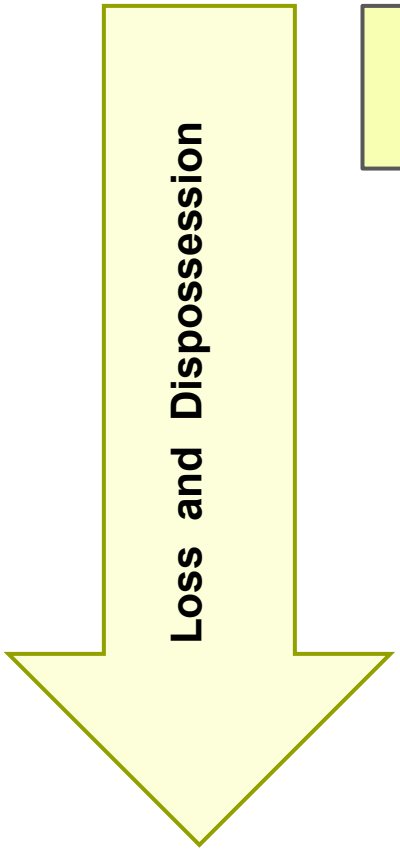
10 women
14 men

Infrastructures	Journals selected	Research Fields	Flipping Status
Open Library of Humanities (OLH) - UK	**8**	**SSH**	**2 Flipping** **6 Flipped**
Epi-Sciences - France	**6**	**STEM**	**1 Flipping** **5 Flipped**
University presses (MIT Press, University of Calgary Journal Hosting) USA/Canada	**3**	**SSH & STEM**	**1 Flipping** **2 Flipped**
Berghahn Journals - UK/USA	**1**	**SSH**	**Flipped**
Centre Mersenne - France	**1**	**STEM**	**Flipped**
OpenEdition - France	**1**	**SSH**	**Flipped**
Érudit - Québec	**1**	**SSH**	**Flipped**

An intricated process of Dispossession and Reconstruction



An intricated process of Dispossession and Reconstruction



Trigger leading to Flipping
APCs, Resignation, Dismission, Editorial autonomy…

Losing the journal « title »

Losing the facilities of an established platform

Losing the reputation, the visibility and the indexing

Community Fragmentation

"But it seems to me that this model is kind of asking for.. for asking for us to think about this, And asking for us to re-evaluate the way that we understand, um yeah, what knowledge is for […]. But I think, you know, it needs, it needs kind of universities to get on board with it. And to promote it."

An intricated process of Depossession and Reconstruction

"Absolutely hugely more [workload]. Um, partly because there are tasks like.. copy editing, that that we're now having to do in in-house um. […] I'm hoping that will diminish as things get up and running but.. At the moment it's still. And in the run-up was just a huge, I mean it was absolutely massive, […]. Sort of informal work you have to do to keep people on board and energize them and make them feel confident that this is going to work"

- Editorial autonomy and academic freedom
- Developing a community governance (journal propriety)
- Engaging the community in rebuilding the visibility and legitimacy of the journal
- Engaging the board members in editorial labour
- Federating authors, readers and peer reviewers as a community
- Securing Journal economic sustainability
- Identifying the new infrastructure
- Keeping the editorial line and identity

Reconstruction and Reappropriation

An intricated process of Dispossession and Reconstruction

Loss and Dispossession

What makes the community converge?

- Trust in editorial leadership
- Shared perception of publisher - problems/injustice
- Collective attachment to common values
- Commitment to Open Access

> [...] my view is, look, you know, let them try to find somebody to replace me and let them fail on their own. Don't give Wiley an excuse for failure. Um you know, let them try, let them fail, I'll enjoy that"

What makes the community diverge?

- Reputation and Impact (IF) of the « deserted » journal
- « Discontinuity » of a historical journal
- Attachement to the Publisher as a brand and platform

Reconstruction and Reappropriation

An intricated process of Dispossession and Reconstruction

Loss and Dispossession

When disagreeemnt becomes division and a loyal trial takes place

- Career aspirations and competition
- Take over the editorial leadership of the « deserted » journal
- Early Career Researchers Vs Senior Researchers
- Rejecting uncertainties on sustainabilities

"You know, the numbers, well, you know, they're epiphenomenal, really. I mean, as impact factors aren't necessarily an indicator of quality. You know, some people have really high impact features because they publish really bad stuff that everybody wants to beat up on. […] So, yeah, it's nice to have a high impact factor, but, at this point, the journal is so well established because of the continuity of the old journal, it just doesn't matter"

Reconstruction and Reappropriation

Research perspectives

- **How « Open Access » comes to build disagreements, conflicts and division among journals communities? (Dissemination or business model)**
- **How to investigate « qualitatively » the becoming of « deserted journals »? (Editorial line, authorship strategies)**
- **How the research community behind a flipped journal contribute to *repoliticise* journal publishing? (Academic freedom)**

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Thank you!