

European Journal of Taxonomy: **A Model for Collaborative Publication**

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Dissemination of scientific culture and public awareness

- 368.000 printed works
- 15.000 m² permanent exhibition
- over 2 million paying visitors a year

Training and education

350 students
(master and PhD)



Research

1.880 employees,
including 500 researchers
Natural diversity, both past
and present, Interdisciplinarity

Preservation and enrichment of the collections

68 millions specimens (incl. 800.000 types)
1st herbarium in the world
3 zoos, 4 glasshouses

Scientific publications of the Museum



- The Museum is a scientific publisher since 1802 and therefore has a long tradition of publishing. The scientific publications department publishes original results based on the Museum's collections and its researches in all the field related to the Muséum.
- Team: 10-FTE and 15ish researchers in the Museum who act as editors of each journal or series published.
- The department handles all the editorial chain: from the submission and peer-review process management to the dissemination, through the editing, layout, proofreading, sales management, stock management etc.
- Production per year: 15 books and 12 periodical issues + a fast track e-only journal.
- 6 peer-reviewed journals and 7 series of monographs and some co-published titles.



Scientific publications is a part of the cycle of research



The field of scholarly publishing is rapidly changing and we are faced with complex, strategic and technical questions such as how to increase the visibility of our publications, their access, format, and even the business model.

Every editorial and publishing team or staff, scattered through natural history institutions in Europe, was faced with the same technological changes and would greatly benefit from a collaborative network.

We've decided to bring together editorial staff involved in scientific publishing within natural history institutions and question together the way we work to fulfil our double mission of certification and dissemination of knowledge.



EDIT

European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy



A network of excellence in taxonomy, coordinated by the Museum, gathering 28 major institutions devoted to knowing the living world better with the support of the European Commission.

Taxonomy: science of finding, describing and naming species of living and fossils organisms.





Paris 8th Dec. 2008



Bratislava 22nd-23rd June 2009

Network of *Scientific Publishing in Natural History Institutions within EDIT*
Exchanging know-how, best practices on dissemination and access



Paris 20th Jan. 2011



Copenhagen 6th-7th October 2010

Aims and Objectives

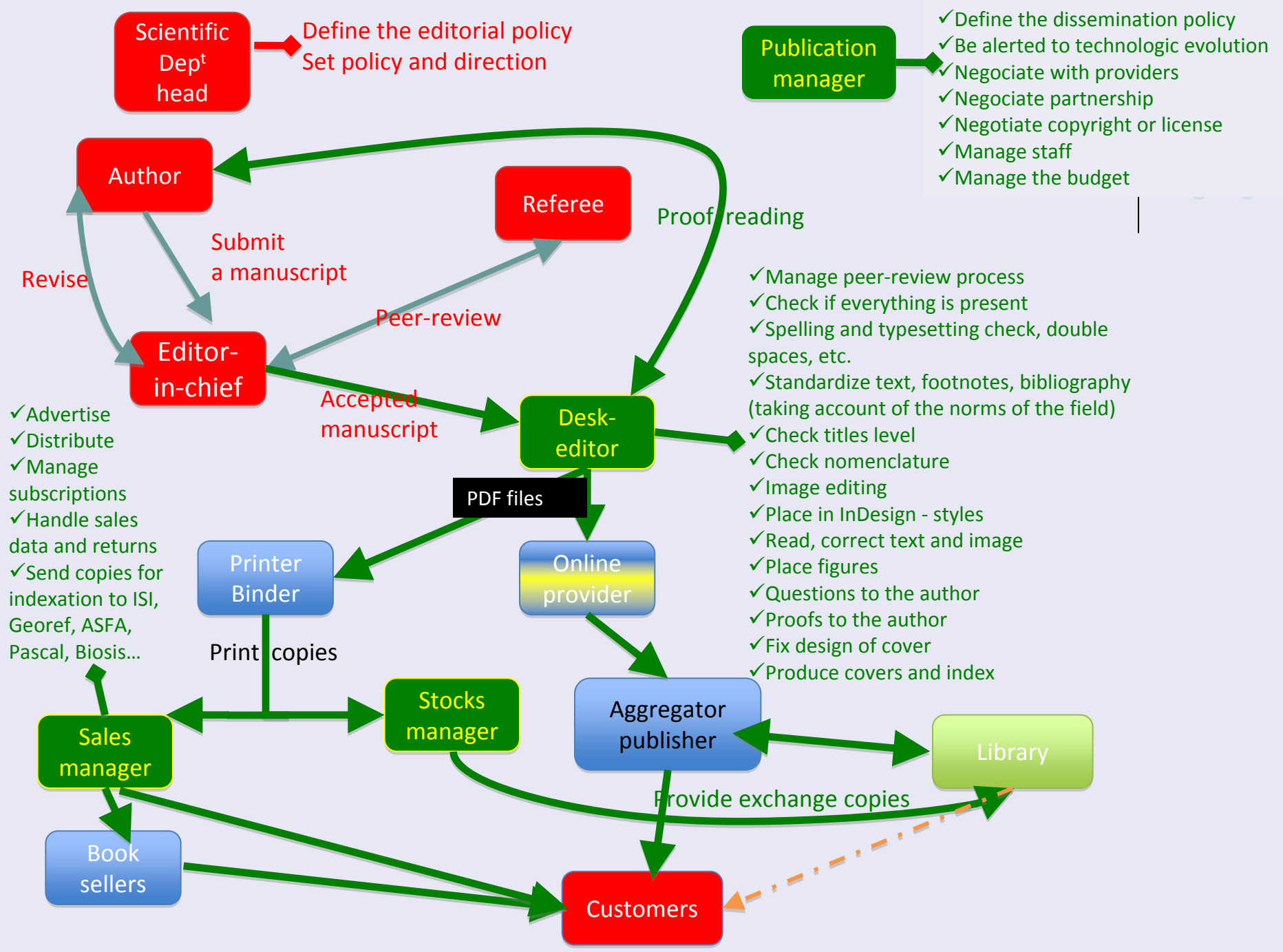


- Catch up with the technology to keep fulfilling our mission
- Reinforce collaborative partnerships
- Inform, network, bring together people working on the same job with the same purpose
- Facilitate the transition to online OA publishing in our fields: take concerted actions to ensure we have crossed the electronic barriers
- Set up a common policy of dissemination in natural history at European level
- Address the technological changes and strategic decisions
- Promote dissemination of scientific information in natural history sciences
- Constitute and support a network which can:
 - ❖ Face the technological change
 - ❖ Weight on strategic decisions
 - ❖ Enhance new standard

Who are we?



- We've listed 25 out of the 28 EDIT members which are publishers; publishing around 65 journals and 50 books and monographs series.
- Most of the institutions are traditionally publishers since they were created: Long standing journals: 1/3 of them are at least 60 year-old journals (16% > 100 year old).
- 61% are available online (which is not very much if we consider the report published in 2009 by the international association of STM publishers which stated that in 2008, 96% of STM journals were available online) and 28% have an impact factor.
- All the institutions have a same editorial process.
- We have different business models.



Scientific Dept head

Define the editorial policy
Set policy and direction

Publication manager

- ✓ Define the dissemination policy
- ✓ Be alerted to technologic evolution
- ✓ Negotiate with providers
- ✓ Negotiate partnership
- ✓ Negotiate copyright or license
- ✓ Manage staff
- ✓ Manage the budget

Author

Submit a manuscript

Referee

Proof reading

Editor-in-chief

Peer-review

Revise

Accepted manuscript

Desk-editor

- ✓ Manage peer-review process
- ✓ Check if everything is present
- ✓ Spelling and typesetting check, double spaces, etc.
- ✓ Standardize text, footnotes, bibliography (taking account of the norms of the field)
- ✓ Check titles level
- ✓ Check nomenclature
- ✓ Image editing
- ✓ Place in InDesign - styles
- ✓ Read, correct text and image
- ✓ Place figures
- ✓ Questions to the author
- ✓ Proofs to the author
- ✓ Fix design of cover
- ✓ Produce covers and index

PDF files

Printer Binder

Print copies

Online provider

Aggregator publisher

Library

Sales manager

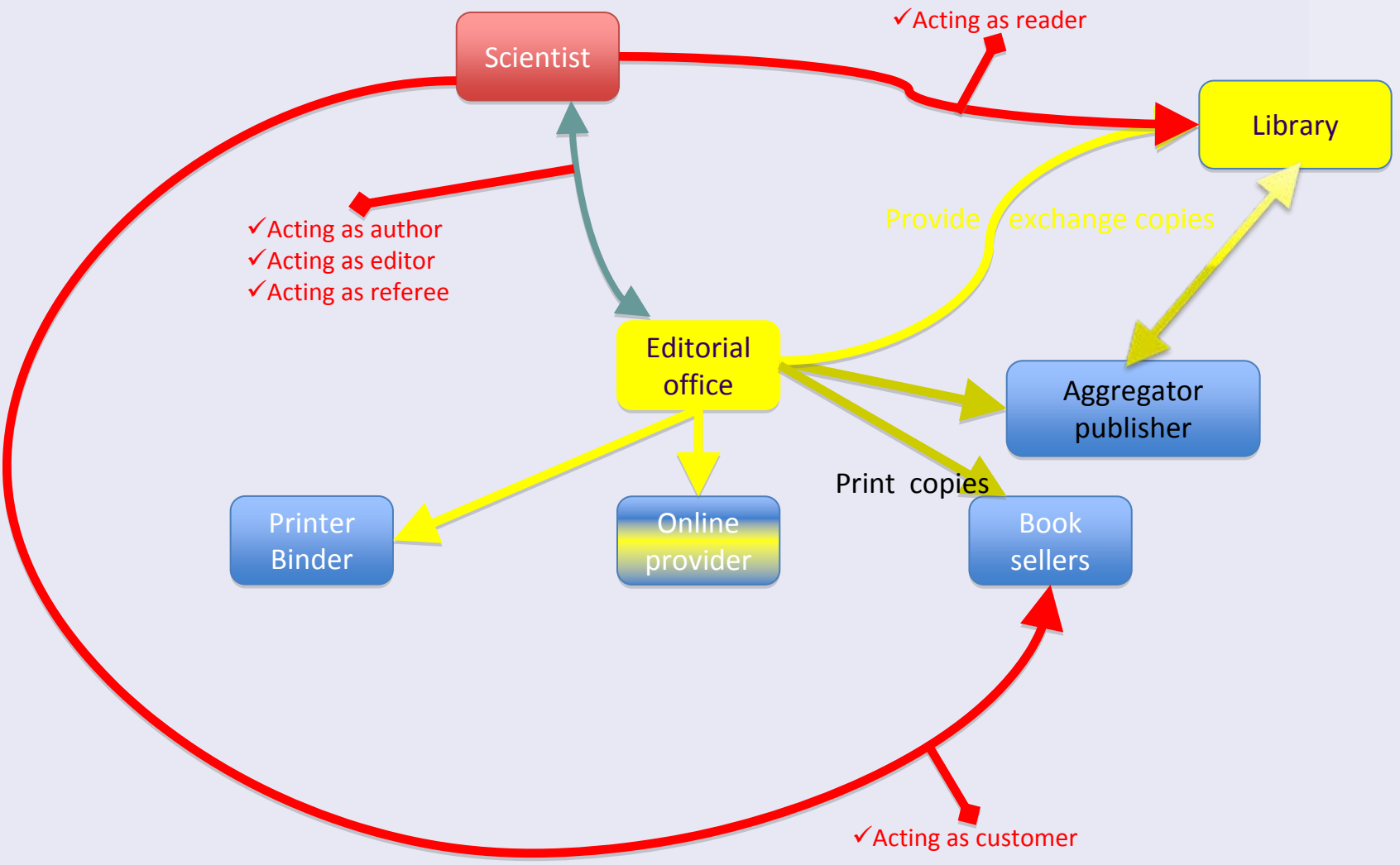
Stocks manager

Provide exchange copies

Book sellers

Customers

- ✓ Advertise
- ✓ Distribute
- ✓ Manage subscriptions
- ✓ Handle sales data and returns
- ✓ Send copies for indexation to ISI, Georef, ASFA, Pascal, Biosis...



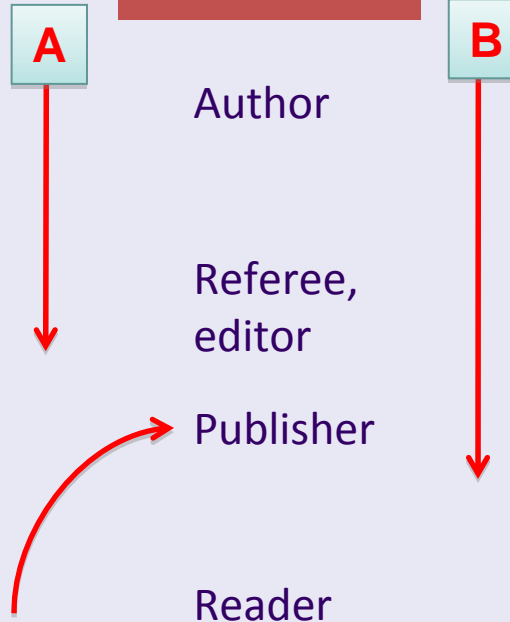
Scholarly Publishing Costs



STEPS

- 1 Research – authoring
- 2 Peer-review
- 3 Editing: lay out, proofs, dissemination
- 4 Customer / Consumer

KEY PLAYERS



SOURCES OF FUNDS

- Institution funded
- Institution funded
- Commercial publisher
OR institutional publisher
- Library or laboratory =
Institution funded

Case A: Traditional subscription model in which the library buys the journal from the publisher (most of the time commercial publisher)

Case B: either institutional publisher gives the journal for free in an exchange program or makes it available for free to all in open access or the institution pays for the publisher to make the Journal available on a OA basis

Specific issues for NHIs taxonomic journals



- Use of Zoological and Botanical nomenclature rules in publications
- Long tradition of inter-library exchange programmes of their titles
- Sustainability of the support: as taxonomic papers are the legal foundation for species names, we need to ensure that the information would be available for a very long time
- Lack of personnel and resources

Taxonomic journals in NHIs



- Small journal (without IF) that fail to attract good papers
- Good journals (with IF) that attract more papers than they can publish rapidly
- Journals commercially outsourced that have lost editorial control (rush for ever increasing IF...)

All would benefit from a joint initiative like *EJT*

The *EJT* Task Group

Royal Museum for Central Africa of Tervuren (Belgium)

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle of Paris (France)

Natural History Museum of London (UK)

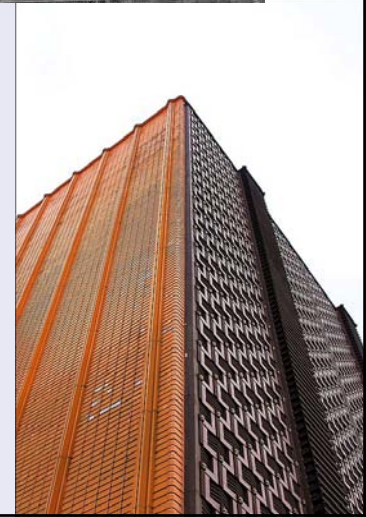
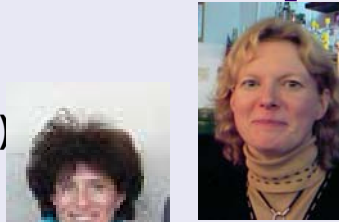
Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences

National Botanic Garden of Belgium

Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales of Madrid (Spain)

Natural History Museum of Denmark Copenhagen (Denmark)

Others are strongly invited to join





E-journal of Taxonomy



- The ownership of the journal is shared by the founding institutions
- the E could be for electronic journal of taxonomy as well as European journal of taxonomy
- International, fully electronic, fast-track, open-access, peer-reviewed journal
- in descriptive taxonomy, covering subjects in zoology (incl. Entomology), botany and palaeontology.
- Truly global but firmly anchored in Europe
- EJT papers must of course be original and of high scientific (content) and technical (language, art work) standard.
- Some of the journals published by the institutions members of EJT will merge while others have chosen not to merge, for now.



Organizational charts



1. Steering Committee

Representatives of institutions that signed CPA
+ EIC and PH

Chair: to be elected from the group

Meets once yearly

Appoints Editor-in-Chief

Appoints Publication head

Signs off budget proposals and DoW prepared by MC

Ownership

4. Associated Group

Institutions with an interest in *EJT*
Friends of the journal

2. Management Committee

Production team, desk editors,
IT staff, Editor in chief, Topical Editors

Chair: Publications head **Technical
management**

Responsible for the publication of EJT and its
dissemination

Meets when necessary

Day-to-day management

Prepares budget

3. Editorial Board

Topical editors, associated editors

Chair: Editor in Chief **Scientific
decisions**

Defines editorial scope

Editorial management



Production process and editorial workflow



CHALLENGES

How to combine technical and scientific skills in the day-to-day management of the journal?

How to build a team with people scattered through Europe and make it work?

Desk-editing: 3 FTA among the institutions (Paris, Bruxelles, London)

Editorial workflow: Journal submission and tracking online system:
Open journal system

Website: Website of the journal will be maintained by the IT staff from London



Production process and editorial workflow.

XML format



Extraction of data elements for repurposing:

Efficient data exchange



- ◆ EJT editorial office
- ◆ EOL
- ◆ Naturalis/Vince Smith
- ◆ Plazi/GoldenGATE
- ◆ ICZN, ICBN, nomenclators
- ◆ GBIF
- ◆ Catalogue of Life
- ◆ CBOL
- ◆ EDIT Cybertaxonomy platform
- ◆ etc.....

- ◆ Names lists and synonyms
- ◆ Descriptions
- ◆ EOL and other generalist publications
- ◆ Geo-location
- ◆ Attribution
- ◆ Measurements and data elements
- ◆ Sequences
- ◆ Images – pictures and diagrams
- ◆ Tables
- ◆ Other components...



Print and download version created in PDF



Long-term Storage Sustainability



LOCKSS principles



Biodiversity Heritage Library

BHL-Europe data centre



Risks



- **Organisational risk:**
 - members of the consortium withdraw
 - difficulties to build a cross-institutional multi-cultural team (language)
- **Financial risk:** EJT receives more manuscript than it can handle. Consequence. We need to hire additional desk-editors which could also be a financial difficulty.
- **Political and economical risk:**
 - European political and economical constraints
 - Governmental budgetary cuts



Benefits



- **The Users:** free access of papers of high scientific and technical quality
- **The Authors**
 - journal with all the novel services offered by web based informatics platform. They will be published quite rapidly, thank to the fast track
 - high exposure and better visibility
 - ensured that the journal fulfils all the obligations of taxonomy.
- **The Taxonomy:** would benefit from such a journal by increasing the visibility of taxonomic publishing and would show that it is worth funding
- **The Publishers:** ability of the institutions to collaborate and set up common policies: that would send a positive image through collaboration, sharing expertise and sharing resources.

**Publishing taxonomic literature is part of the mission of most NHI:
it should be considered as part of the cycle of research.**



Key aspects



- **Alternative economic model**
 - Free OA where neither the author, nor the reader pays
 - Set conditions of access to the publicly-funded research performed by the NHIs
- **Empower publishing staff**
- **Set up of cross-institutional strategy at European level**



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