

Indispensable or unnecessary? A data-driven appraisal of post cancellation access rights

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Electronic Resources & Libraries
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POPULAR RESOURCES

Big Deal Cancellation Tracking

Open Access

More Research Libraries Decline “Big Deal” Subscription Contracts with Publishers

Jessica Aiwuyor | 202-296-2296 | jaiwuyor@arl.org | May 14, 2020

UNC Chapel Hill Cancels Big Deal With Elsevier

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#)

// April 10, 2020

Accessing Elsevier Articles

UC has been [out of contract](#) with Elsevier since January 2019 and no longer has access to certain content. This will mean some changes to how UC scholars access certain Elsevier journal articles:

- Access to any articles published from 2019 forward will no longer be available via Elsevier's ScienceDirect platform.
- UC will **retain access** via ScienceDirect to older articles from these journals ([download list of journal titles and years](#)).
- UC will **no longer have direct access** via ScienceDirect to older articles from these journals ([download list of journal titles and years](#)). This list only includes Elsevier journals for which UC previously had a contract.

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS TO ELSEVIER ARTICLES



Note: The UC Libraries do not endorse using Sci-Hub for article access.

How to access Elsevier articles



Find an **open access copy**



Request it from the **author**



Get it from the **library**

5yr forecast overview

Subscriptions
298

\$770,355

Annual cost ⓘ

80%

Instant fulfillment ⓘ

Savings \$1,550,411

ILL/delayed 20%

Subscription 37%

Subscription \$770,355

Backfile 16%

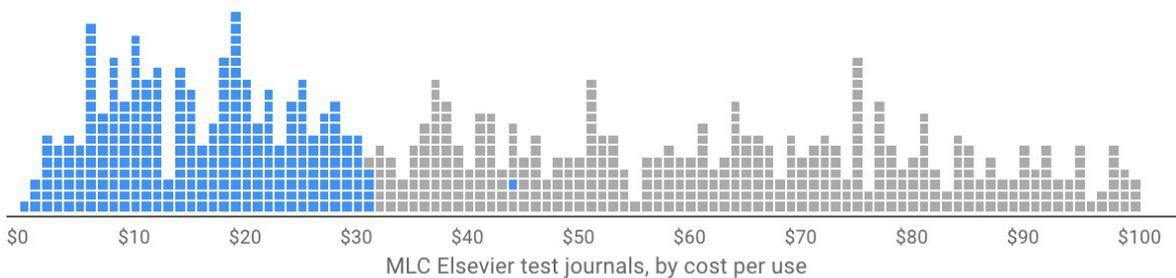
Open access 26%

Annual cost
33.2% of Big Deal

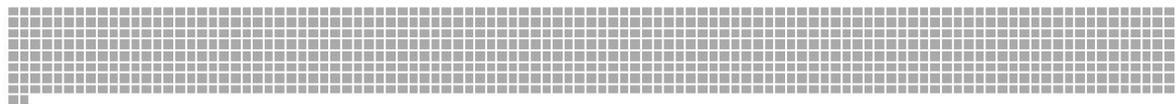
Instant fulfillment

À la carte journals (1,719)

Search journals



850 Journals with CPU > \$100



186 Journals with no usage



Unsub allows libraries to use current usage (COUNTER JR1) to predict future use - taking into account OA, backfile access, continuing subscriptions, and ILL (and lost access)



Post-Cancellation Access (PCA)

The content accessible to a subscriber after cancellation of a big deal

AKA Post-Termination Access (PTA), backfile access, perpetual access

Access varies by publisher and based on historical agreements

- Core “Subscribed” titles PCA = a subset of titles available post-cancellation
- Database model PCA = all titles are available post-cancellation

When a library cancels, it still has access to OA content, aggregator content, and some continued subscriptions

Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries Signs Multi-Year Contract with Elsevier

The Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries signed a three year contract (2021-2023) with Elsevier for their Freedom Collection. Elsevier is the largest publisher of STEM materials and is based in the Netherlands with offices in New York City. This contract includes ongoing access to 2,300 journal titles included in their Freedom Collection as well as selected additional titles that are hosted on their platform for Cell Press, Lancet, Clinics of North America, and other society titles. The contract will provide faculty, staff, and student access to all materials at all 15 of the academic libraries in the Alliance.

Some of the key elements of the deal include:

- No reduction in access to journal content from the previous contract
- An overall cost reduction for the contract of approximately \$1.5 million (15%) with cost reductions being distributed to members on a pro-rated basis
- No price increase in year two, and an increase of no more than 2% in year three
- A cut in post termination access (PTA) to journals starting in 2021 unless a library chooses to re-acquire some or all of them at a later date (at a cost slightly lower than the original cost).

**How valuable are post-cancellation
access rights?**

What are some components of PCA value?

- Cost Avoidance
- Cancellation insurance
- Allows the impact of cancellation to be gradual rather than sudden
- Archival role

This study

Four libraries

- 2 R2s, 2 R1s

Five major publishers

- SAGE, Springer, Wiley (PCA to 100% of titles)
- Elsevier, Taylor & Francis (PCA to a subset of titles)

Eight EBSCO full-text databases - combined into one file

Analysis using COUNTER Release 4 JR1 and JR5 reports, with some of the work in Unsub

Looked at most recent ten years of usage

How we used Unsub



- Loaded COUNTER JR1 reports for each publisher and each library
- Loaded custom backlist reports to test different levels of access
 - Actual PCA list
 - PCA list with earlier cutoff dates (2010-2014)
- Loaded aggregator coverage lists

Perpetual Access

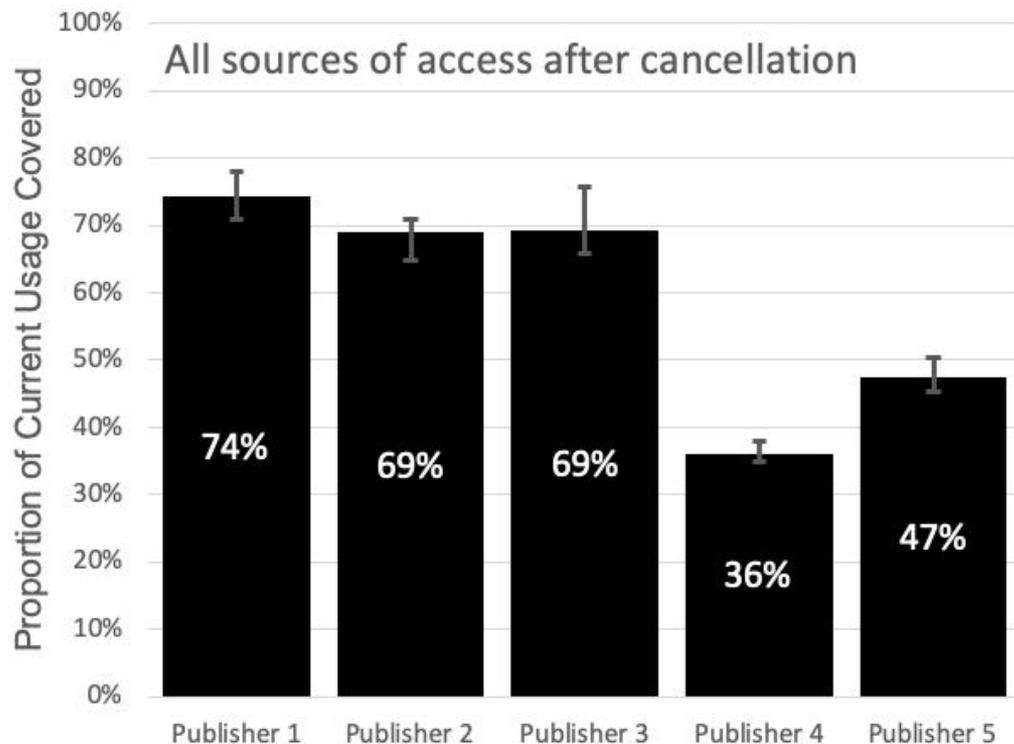
Each journal's date ranges for which you have perpetual access to articles. Only dates after 2010 affect forecasting

[Knowledge base](#)

A screenshot of the Unsub interface showing two options for perpetual access. The first option, 'Full perpetual access', is selected and circled in red. The second option, 'Perpetual access between given dates', is also circled in red. To the right of the options, the number of journals is displayed: 780 for the first option and 0 for the second. An 'UPLOAD' button is visible at the bottom.

Default	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full perpetual access	These journals have full perpetual access rights since 2010	780 Journals
Optional	<input type="checkbox"/> Perpetual access between given dates	These journals have custom dates that override the defaults.	0 Journals

What proportion of current usage would be covered *immediately** after cancellation?



All sources of access after cancellation

- Licensed PCA
- Aggregator
- Open Access
- (Ignoring any ongoing subscriptions)

Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)

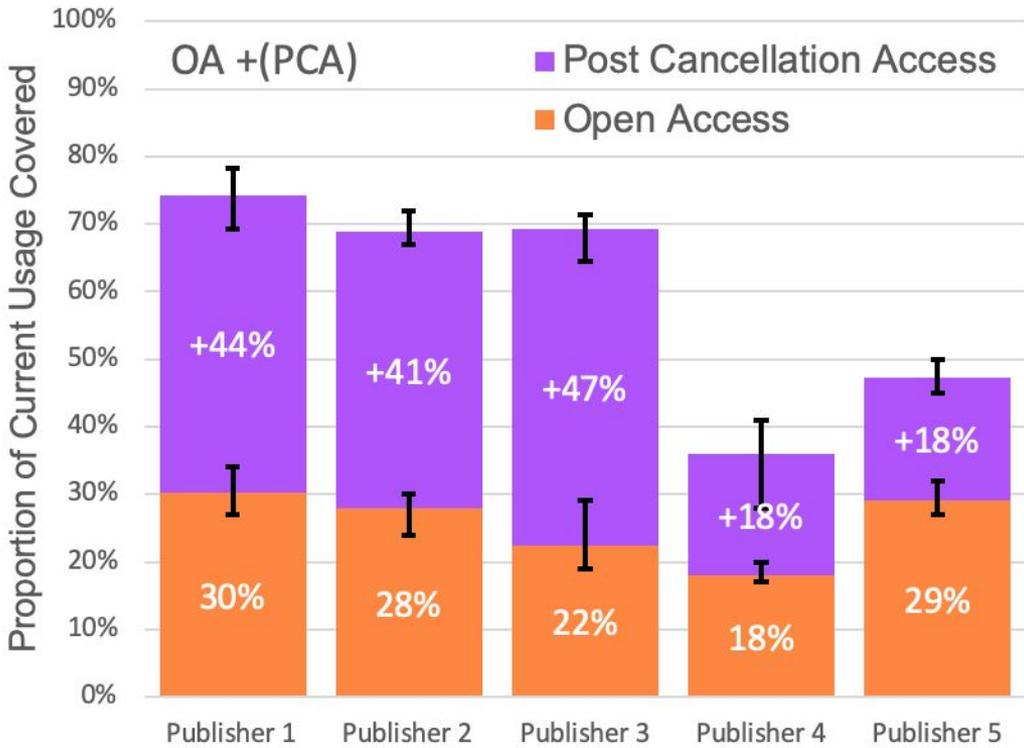
Five publishers

Bars = min/max

Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source List, Unsub

*in the first year after cancellation

What proportion of current usage would be covered *immediately* after cancellation?



OA is at least constant, and will likely increase over time

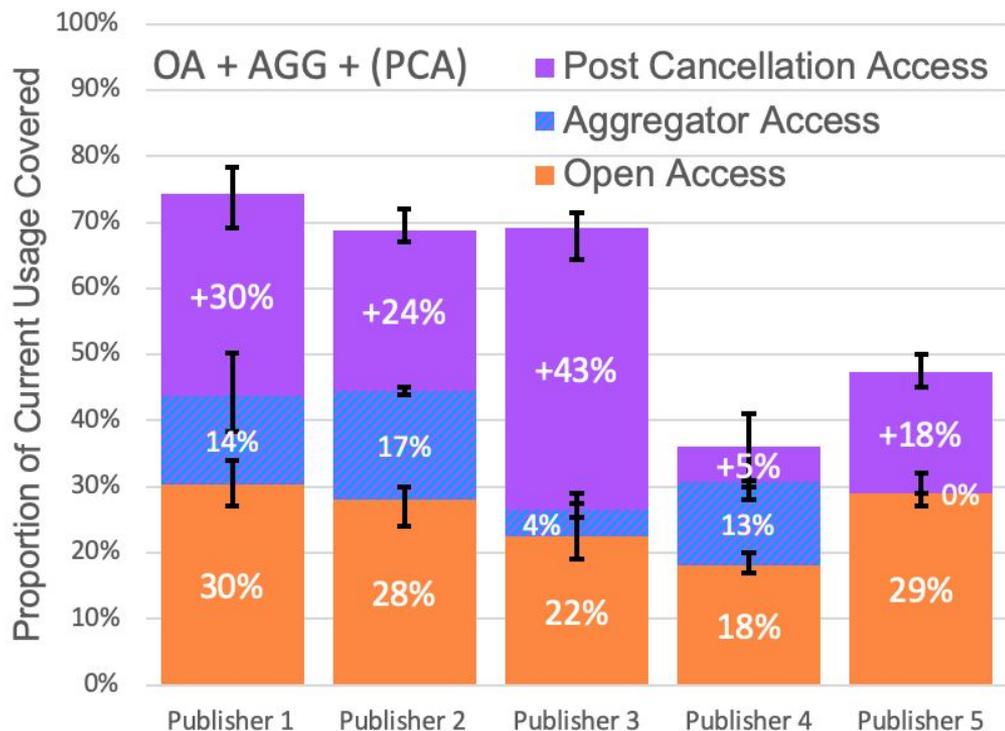
PCA will diminish over time

PCA overlaps to some extent with OA

Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
Five publishers
Bars = min/max

Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source Lists, Unsub

What proportion of current usage would be covered *immediately* after cancellation?



No deduplication between aggregator and PCA access = a rough approximation of total coverage

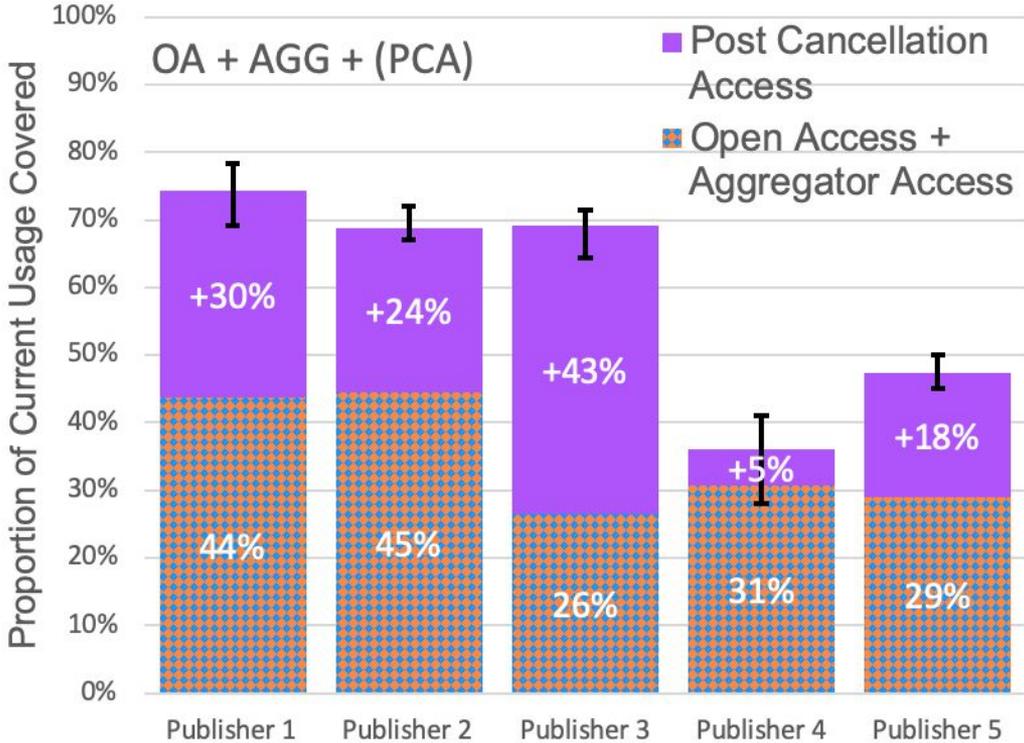
Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)

Five publishers

Bars = min/max

Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source Lists, Unsub

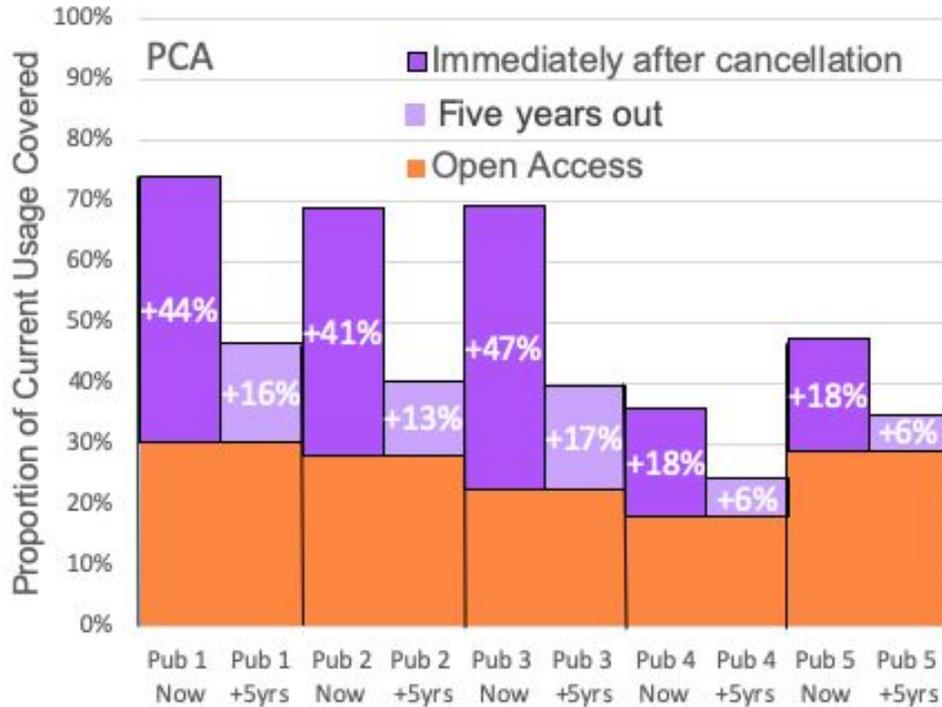
What proportion of current usage would be covered *immediately* after cancellation?



Licensed PCA is represented in purple

Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
Five publishers
Bars = min/max
Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source Lists, Unsub

Cancellation might have a relatively small impact immediately, but what happens over time?



“Five years out” = backfile ends five years ago

- Used custom PCA list in Unsub with 2010-2014 coverage

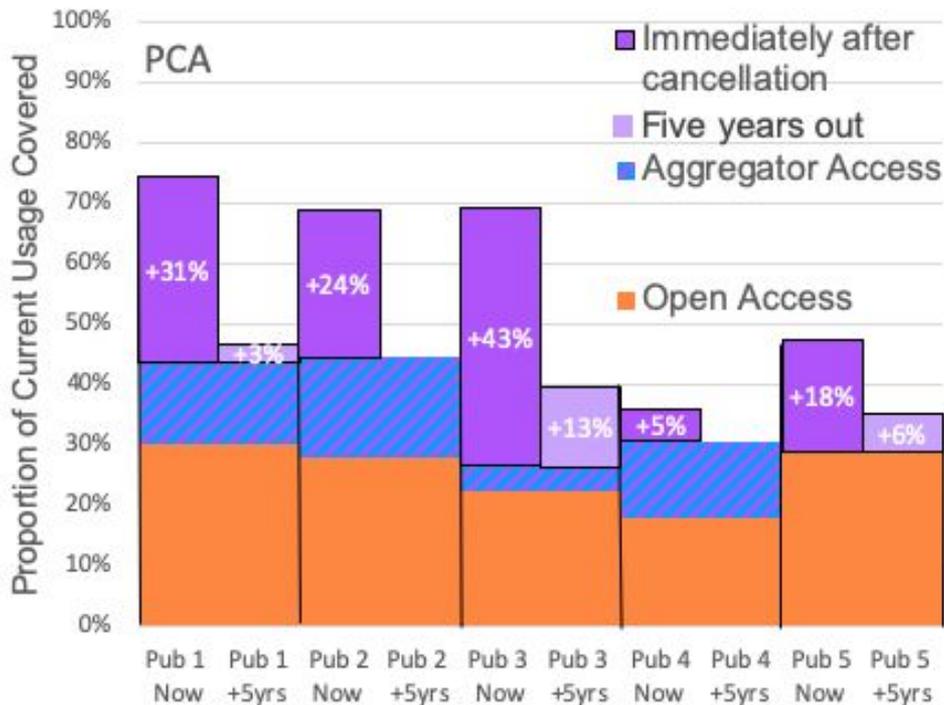
“Immediately after cancellation”

- Used true PCA list in Unsub

Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)

Five publishers

Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source List, Unsub



“Five years out” = backfile ends five years ago

- Used custom PCA list in Unsub with 2010-2014 coverage

“Immediately after cancellation”

- Used true PCA list in Unsub

Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)

Five publishers

Data Source: COUNTER JR1, Aggregator Source List, Unsub

From JR1 to JR5

Previous slides used COUNTER Release 4 JR1 reports in Unsub

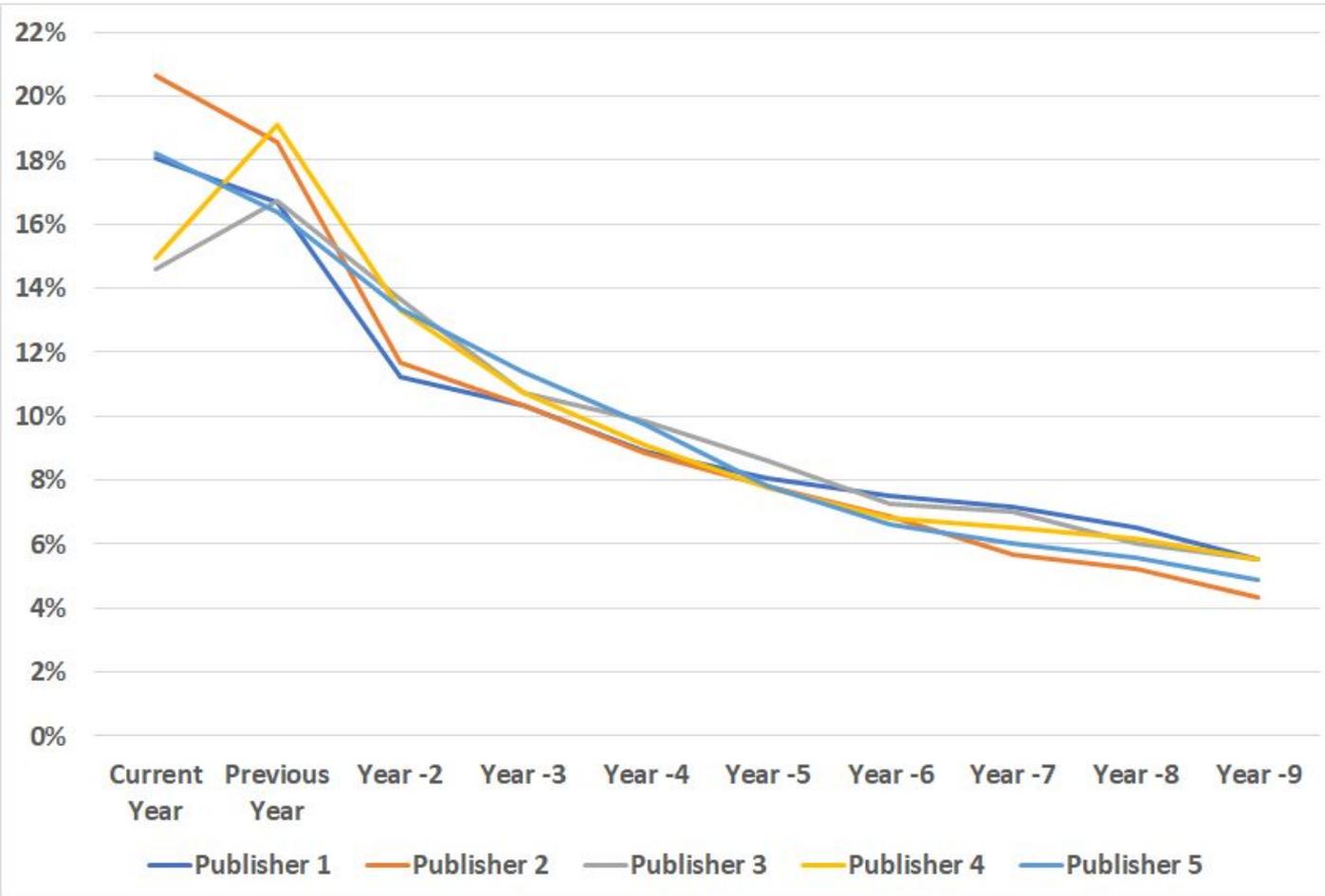
The following slides use COUNTER JR5, which reports on usage by year of publication, giving more granular data to understand how PCA value, as measured by usage, changes over time

How does the proportion of usage change by Year of Publication?

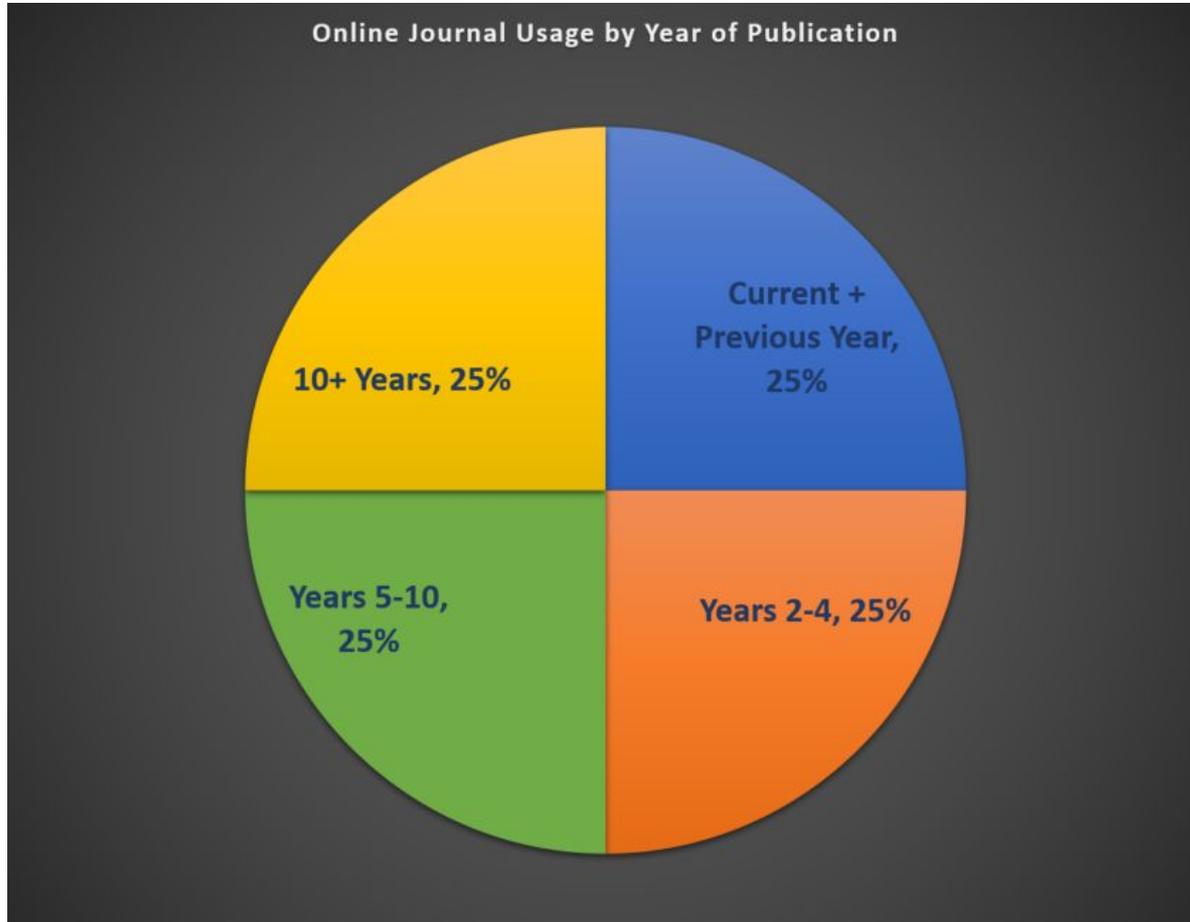
No variation by publisher

*Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
*Five publishers
*Usage of deep backfile (10+ years old) not included

Data Source: COUNTER JR5 Reports

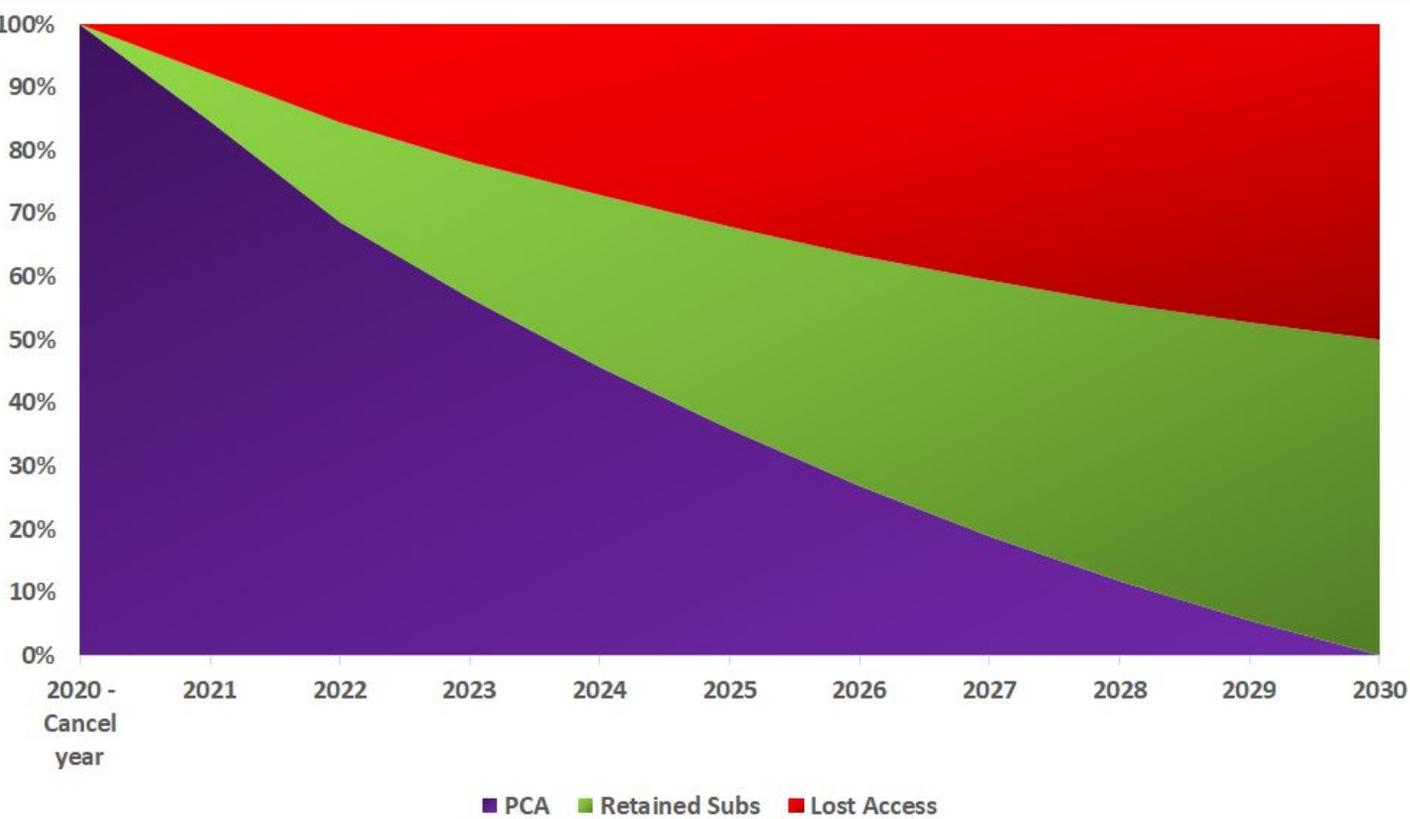


JR5s show a “2-3-5-10” usage pattern



*Follow us for more pie chart recipes

What proportion of current usage would be covered over *time* after cancellation?

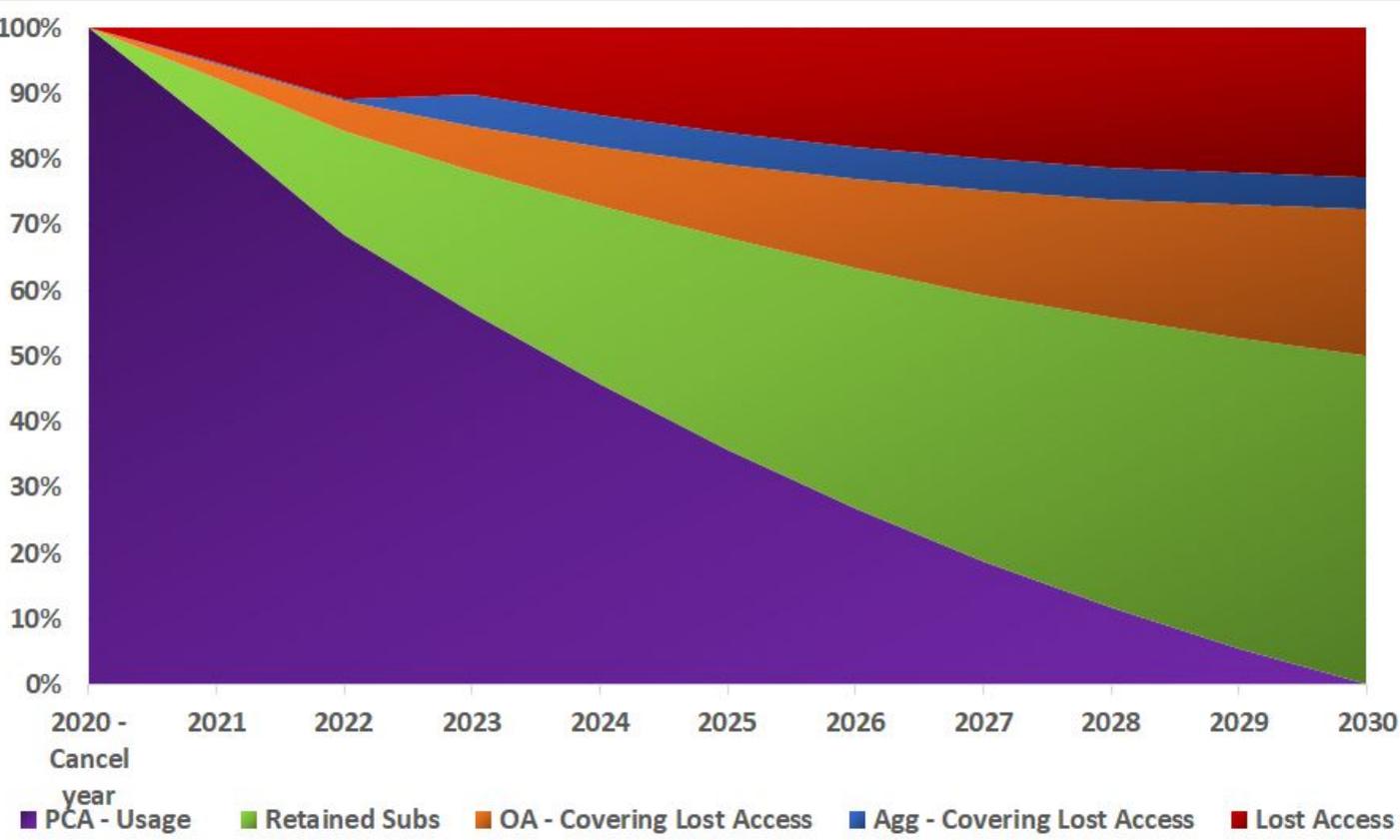


Only taking into account post cancellation access, retained subscriptions, lost access

*Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
*Five publishers
*Assumed 50% usage of subs retained
*Usage of deep backfile (10+ years old) not included

Data Source: COUNTER JR5 Reports

What proportion of current usage would be covered over *time* after cancellation?



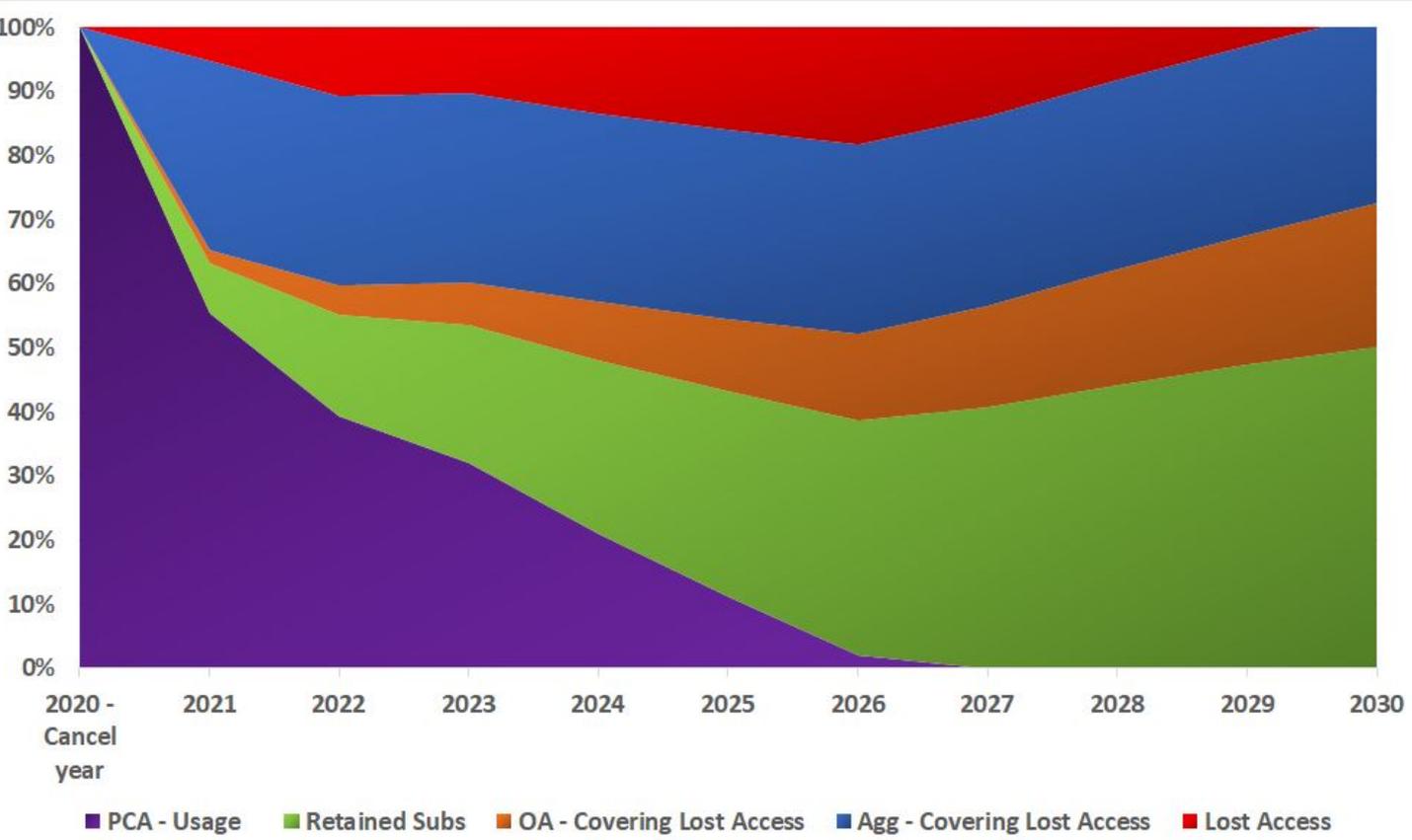
Including OA & Aggregator access, post cancellation access, retained subscriptions, lost access

Agg content constant
OA grows over time

*Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
*Five publishers
*Usage of deep backfile (10+ years old) not included

Data Source: COUNTER JR5 Reports & Aggregator Source Lists

What proportion of current usage would be covered over *time* after cancellation?



With Aggregator access and OA as first resort, PCA loses its value much more quickly

**Agg content constant
OA grows over time**

*Four libraries (2 R1, 2 R2)
*Five publishers
*Usage of deep backfile (10+ years old) not included

Data Source: COUNTER JR5 Reports & Aggregator Source Lists

Translating PCA usage into value (in dollars)

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Total usage} \\ \text{(year before} \\ \text{cancellation)} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{l} \% \text{ of usage} \\ \text{uniquely covered} \\ \text{by PCA rights} \end{array} = \begin{array}{l} \# \text{ of uses} \\ \text{uniquely} \\ \text{covered by} \\ \text{PCA} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ of uses} \\ \text{uniquely} \\ \text{covered by} \\ \text{PCA} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{l} \text{Value} \\ \text{-----} \\ \text{Use} \end{array} = \text{Value (\$\$)}$$

Translating PCA usage into value (in dollars)

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Total usage} \\ \text{(year before} \\ \text{cancellation)} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{l} \% \text{ of usage} \\ \text{uniquely covered} \\ \text{by PCA rights} \end{array} = \begin{array}{l} \# \text{ of uses} \\ \text{uniquely} \\ \text{covered by} \\ \text{PCA} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ of uses} \\ \text{uniquely} \\ \text{covered by} \\ \text{PCA} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \text{Cost} \\ \text{-----} \\ \text{Use} \end{array}} \end{array} = \text{Value (\$\$)}$$

*Calculate annually over 10 years,
taking into account diminishing use of older content over time

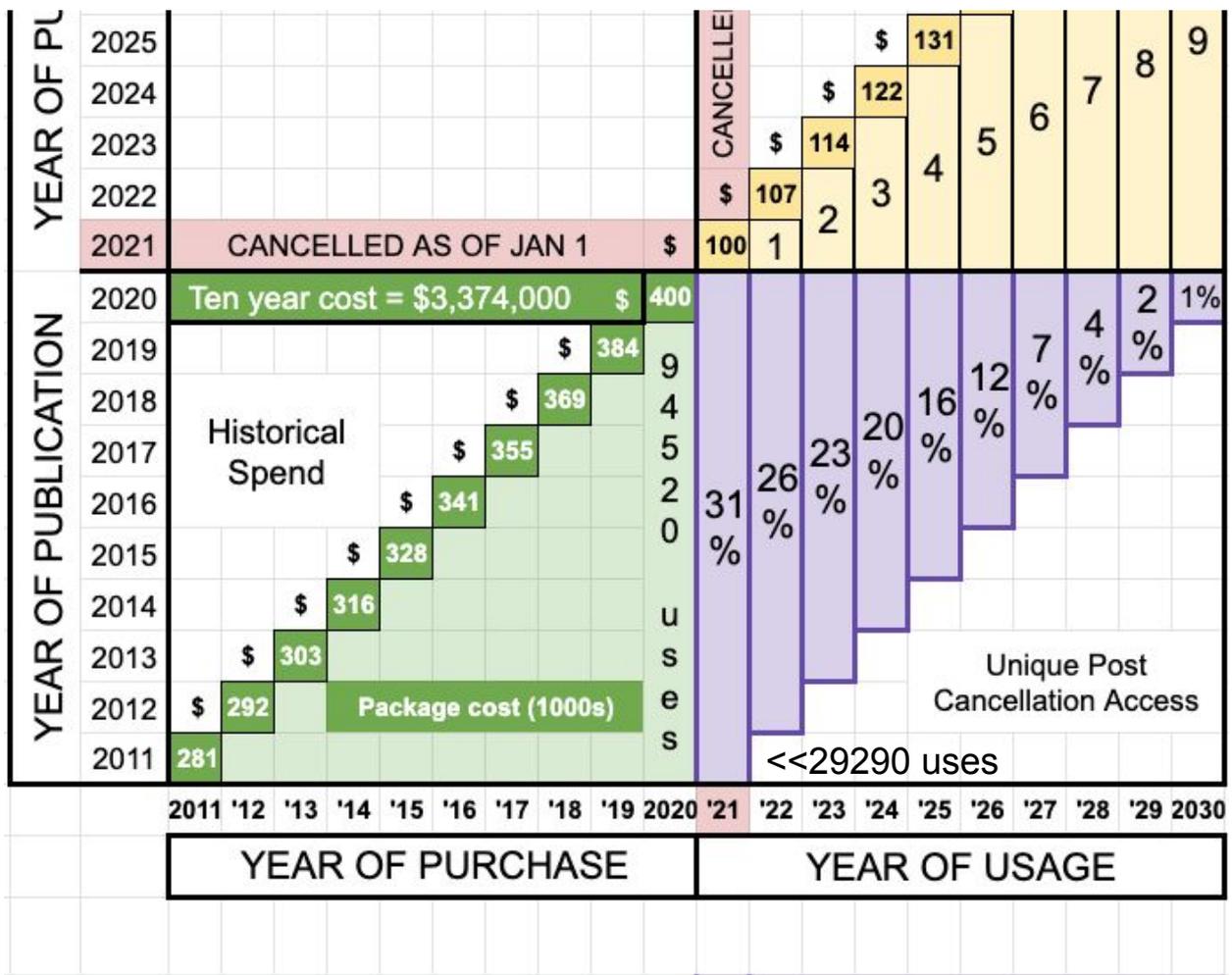
PCA Value Grid

Preliminary Illustration

(exploratory slicing & dicing)

2 Total usage (year before cancellation) X % of usage uniquely covered by PCA rights

- * 1 library
- * Publisher 1
- * Unsub - estimated
- PCA usage not covered by OA or Aggregator
- *JR 5 usage by year of publication
- * historical package cost
- *10 yr window of pca
- *usage does NOT take current subs into account



Concluding thoughts

Post cancellation access: Indispensable or unnecessary?

More valuable	vs	Less valuable
The deeper the planned cut, the greater the PCA value		PCA has no direct value unless/until you cancel
When the full package is covered		When only subscription titles are covered
Immediately after package cancellation		Longer after package cancellation
When lost access is <i>less</i> acceptable		When lost access is <i>more</i> acceptable
When a gradual impact of cancellation is preferred		When a sudden impact of cancellation is acceptable
When OA & aggregator access are less acceptable or accessible		When OA & aggregator access are acceptable substitutes
When alternative access takes more effort from users		When alternative access is easy b/c tools are in place to support it

Presenters



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University of Denver

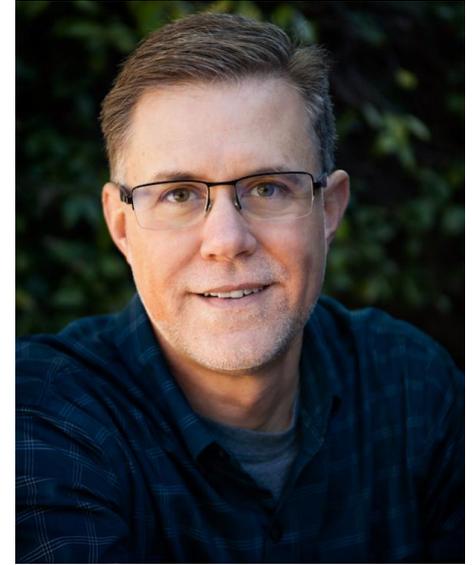
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