



Does the business model for  
academic publishing promote  
scholarly progress?

A Debate in the QUASI Seminar Series

November 12, 2021

Assigned Position:  
YES

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# Academic Publishing

- "Filtering, framing, and amplification" (Bhaskar)
- Functions:
  - registration (attribution, credit)
  - certification (peer review, retraction, quality, prestige)
  - dissemination (distribution, access)
  - preservation (ideas, object archiving)

# Scholarly Progress

## Output Indicators

- Volume of publications
- Comparative growth and development over time
- Expectation to use/cite

## Impact Indicators

- Expansion of knowledge/knowing
- Career development and rewards
- By metrics and measures of activities that rely on academic publishing

The background features several sets of curved lines in the top-left and bottom-right corners. Some lines are solid and others are dashed, creating a sense of motion or flow. A large red shape, resembling a speech bubble or a callout box, is positioned on the left side of the slide. It has a rectangular top and a pointed bottom, with the text 'Business Model' centered inside in white. Two horizontal red lines are positioned to the right of the red box, one above and one below the main text blocks.

## Business Model

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**Core strategy, value proposition,  
plan for sustainability, etc.**

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**The business model of academic  
publishing is not singular.**

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing the text 'It's Business Models'. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the right.

## It's Business Models

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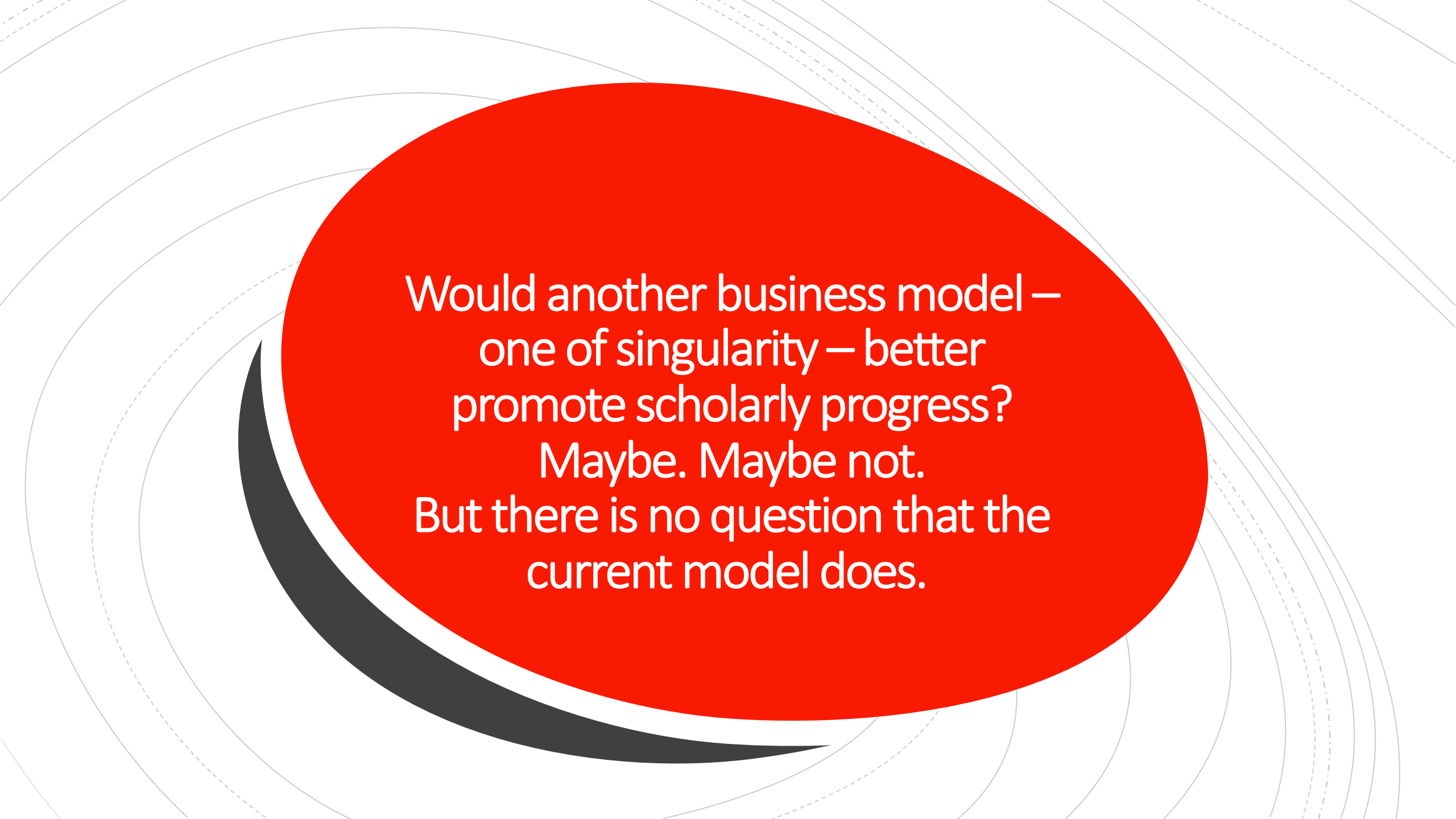
a panoply across academic publishing industry but even internal to a publisher

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notably flexible and responsive to (multiple and conflicting) stakeholder demands

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able to withstand wholesale piracy and significant “gifting” of product/services



Would another business model –  
one of singularity – better  
promote scholarly progress?  
Maybe. Maybe not.  
But there is no question that the  
current model does.