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Philip B. Stark

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8

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Overview

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Abstract

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- whether a prestigious journal will publish it
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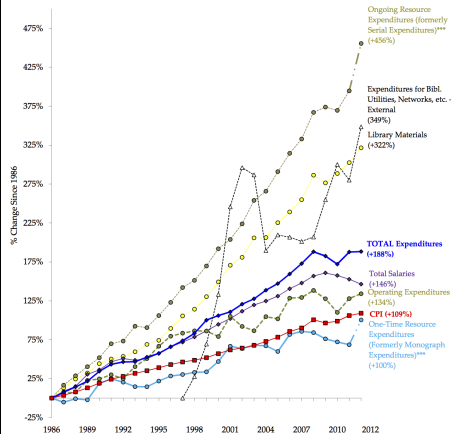
- To disseminate knowledge and allow others to build on your work
- To be read and known
- To be promoted/rewarded

- Sometimes useful
- Can be abused to control resources and disciplines, advance agendas, etc.
- Hard to do well in many fields, especially as “papers” rely on software, data, etc.
- Subject to gender biases, etc.

Prestigious scientific journals. . .

- Don't let you *submit* enough information for referees to check your work
 - can't really be gatekeepers of quality or correctness
- Don't let you *publish* enough information for others to check or use your work
 - don't really disseminate knowledge
- Are expensive to libraries and readers
 - limit access by the public, small businesses, unaffiliated scholars, scholars in less affluent places
- Are rent-seekers
 - take IP from the commons, funded by society, refereed by volunteers, printed using public funds, and rent it back

Graph 4
Expenditure Trends
in ARL Libraries, 1986-2012



Source: ARL Statistics 2009-IT Association of Research Libraries, Washington, D.C.
***Trend line was extended with data from two new variables: Ongoing and One-Time Resource Expenditures.

Aligning social good with personal incentives

- Might not be entirely possible
- Why are you in academia?
- Do good because it's the right thing to do, not because you will be rewarded
- Hiring, merits, promotion: look at the *work*, not the journal masthead
- “Professionalization” and “scientific management” of science harms science and society
 - “When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a useful measure.” —Dame Marilyn Strathern
- Not everything can be quantified to advantage

Assign a meaningless number, then conclude that because it's quantitative, it means something.

Assign a meaningless number, then conclude that because it's quantitative, it means something.

We convince ourselves we can make fine distinctions because we can perform precise calculations with meaningless numbers (SET, citation counts, impact factors, ...)