

# What Does it Cost and Who Pays? A Way Ahead?

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## So what?

- RIN role to question how efficient and effective are the information services and resources provided for and used by the UK research community
- Clearer picture of where major costs arise, and how they are funded, enables us to
  - focus attention on key areas where cost efficiencies and enhanced effectiveness are most likely to arise (*eg peer review?? browse, search, download??*)
  - analyse the balance of trade between different sectors and different countries (*eg UK or EU contribution*)
  - develop scenarios of possible changes, and model their impacts both on costs and on how/where those costs are met

## Scenarios

- ▣ more research → more outputs → more costs (but more reading)?
- ▣ open access → transitional costs → (longer term) reductions in costs/increases in effectiveness?
- ▣ scope for improvements in processes and/or delivery mechanisms?
  - ▣ impact on researchers' costs
- ▣ implications of full economic costing of research?

## Some key messages

- Journal publishing and distribution are pivotal, but only part of, the scholarly communications system
  - c 3.6% of the overall costs
- Much larger costs incurred by readers in search, print and reading
  - but those costs are also measures of value
- Costs are met overwhelmingly (>78%) by the higher education sector
- Costs will continue to rise in real terms
- There is scope for savings, and improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, across the system
  - and they are not just, or even mainly, in publication and distribution