



February 27, 2017

Statement Regarding Nature Research New Journals

The Big Ten Academic Alliance has longstanding contracts with Springer and Nature Research to provide scholarly journals and ebooks to our member faculty, students and researchers. Since the merger of Springer and Nature in 2015, the BTAA has been working on a new, merged agreement that would retain and possibly expand the package of journals that would be made available for our community.

However, in 2017 Nature launched 5 new journal titles and plans an additional 3-5 new launches for 2018.

This aggressive growth in publishing output, coupled with price increases to libraries, make this an unsustainable economic publishing model. Nature publishes some of the most highly rated and highly cited journals and library budgets are already stretched to accommodate growth and inflation in the scholarly publishing marketplace.

The practice of creating new journals to generate additional revenue for publishers should not be encouraged or rewarded as a regular practice. The BTAA libraries will not be subscribing to any of the new Nature journals, and those decisions were communicated to SpringerNature in a letter in 2016.



