

Surveillance Capitalism
in
Our
Libraries



Hi, Library Friends!

We've got surveillance-y companies
running our library databases

The companies that own our library resources are no longer **publishers**.

They're **data analytics companies**.

In the 1990's, we figured out how to turn all sorts of media into streamlined data.

And also,
the internet happened.

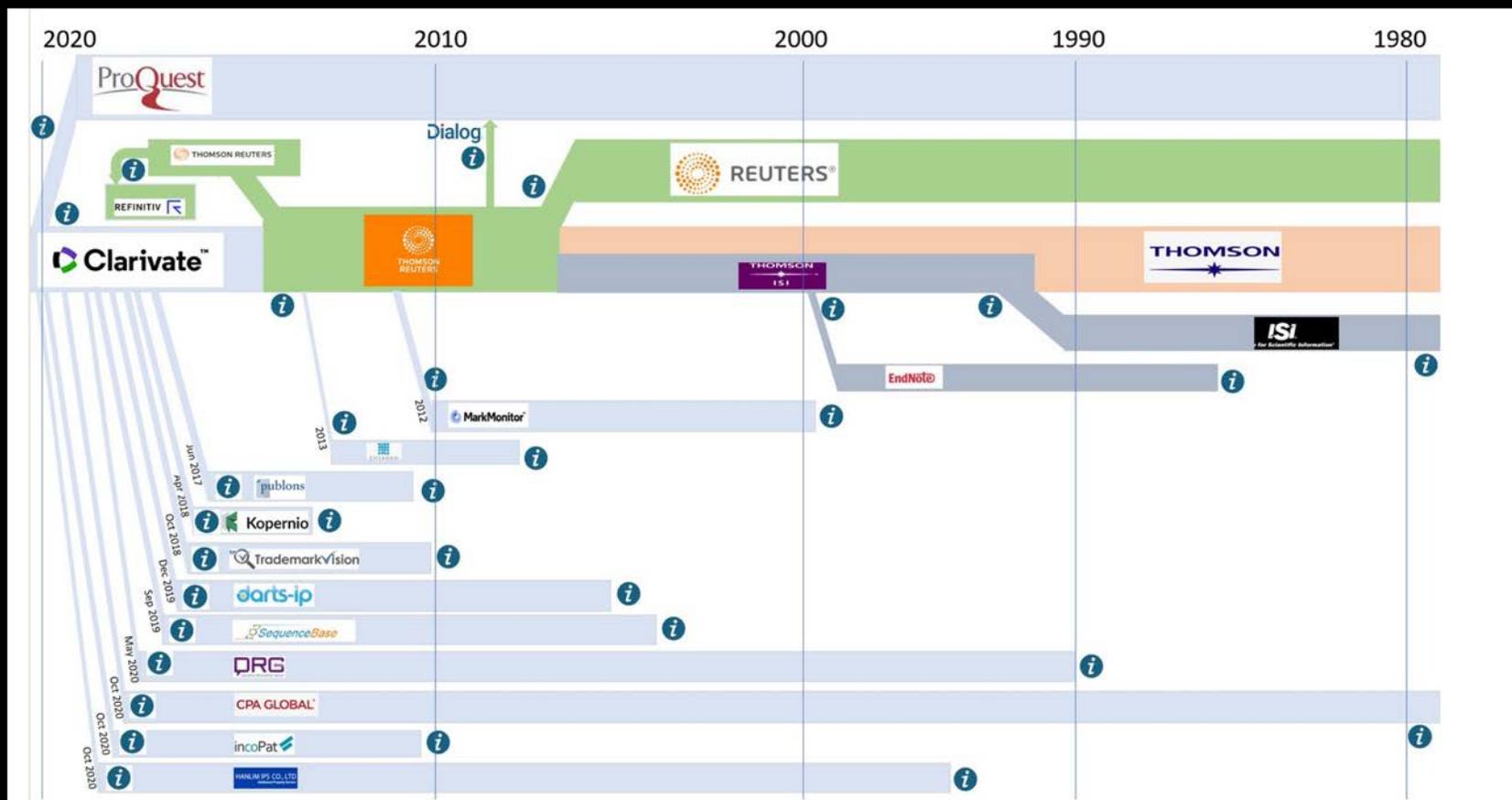


Major content publishers/platforms were **stoked**





*frenzied content
acquisition ensues*



Marshall Breeding maps out consolidation in the library systems platforms. There is similar consolidation in content markets (“publishing”).

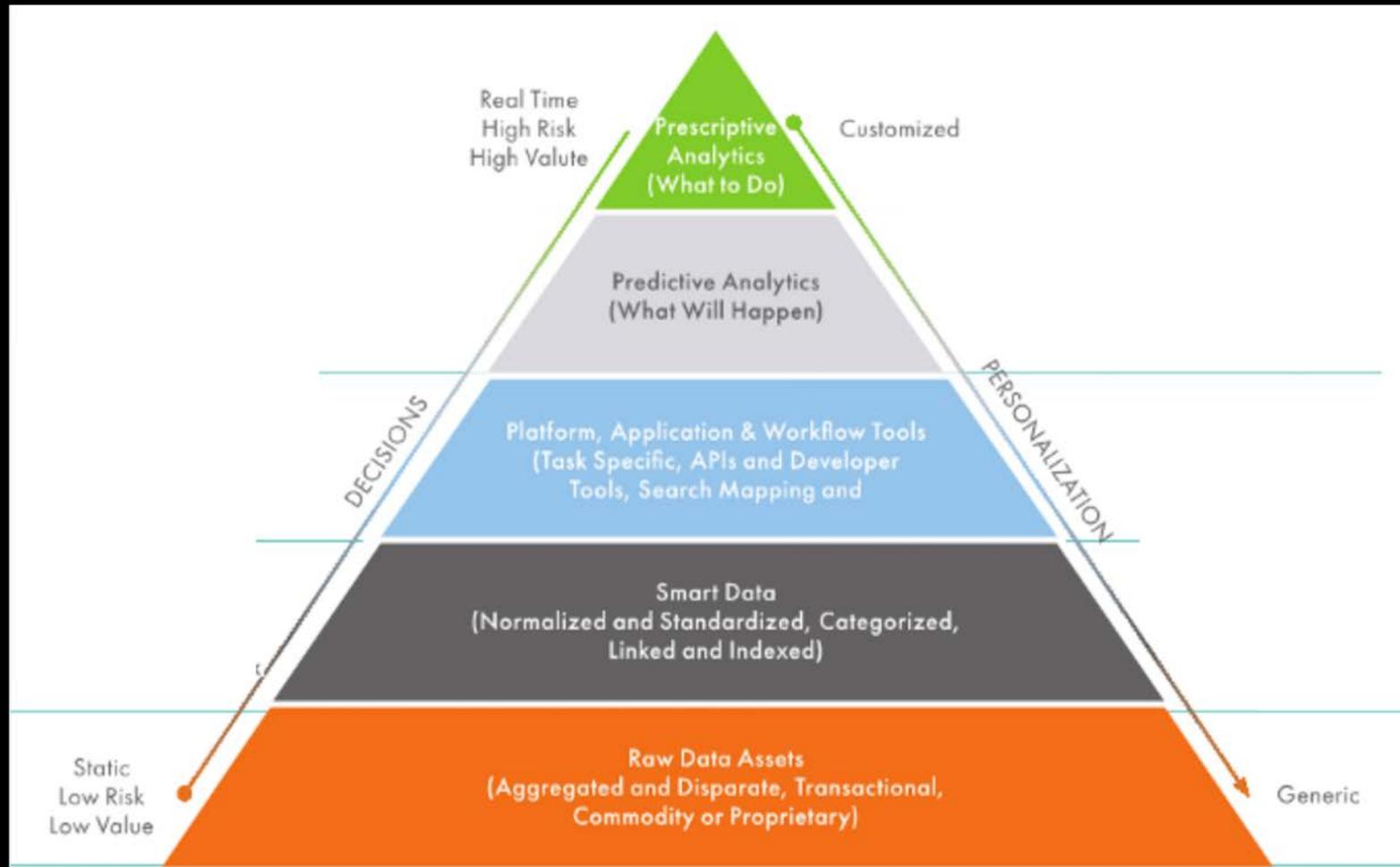
Division or subsidiary of RELX	Date	Acquisition	Value
Reed Elsevier	1993-08	Official Airline Guides Inc, a publisher of airline schedules	\$425 million ^[11]
Reed Elsevier	1994-10	LexisNexis, an on-line information business	\$1.5 billion ^[12]
Reed Elsevier	1997-03	MDL Information Systems Inc, a US software systems and information database developer	\$320M ^[13]
Reed Elsevier	1997-06	Chilton Business Group, a US business information publishing company	\$447M ^[14]
Reed Elsevier	1998-04	Matthew Bender & Company Inc, a US publisher of legal information	\$1.65bn ^[15]
Reed Elsevier	2000-10	Harcourt, an education publishing business	\$4.5bn plus debt ^[16]
LexisNexis	2004-07	Seisint of Boca Raton, Florida, which provided the company with access to HPCC Systems for the first time	\$775M ^[17]
Reed Elsevier	2005-05	Medimedia, a medical publisher whose imprints included Medicine Publishing and Masson	\$270M ^[18]
Reed Elsevier	2008-02	Choicepoint , which had been a spinoff of Equifax's Insurance Services Group in August 1997. The acquisition was completed in September 2008.	\$4.1bn ^{[19][20]}
Reed Business Information	2011-06	Ascend, a London-based civil aviation data analytics company ^[21]	Undisclosed
Reed Elsevier	2011-11	US online-data business Accuity Holdings Inc. from investment firm Investcorp	£343M (\$530.1M) ^[22]
LexisNexis Legal & Professional	2012-03	Law360 , a US-based online provider of legal information and analysis ^[23]	Undisclosed
Elsevier	2013-04	Mendeley , a London-based desktop and web program for managing and sharing research papers, discovering research data and collaborating online ^[24]	Undisclosed but up to \$100M
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2013-09	Mapflow, a Dublin-based group that helps insurance companies assess geographic risk, in particular in relation to flooding ^[25]	Undisclosed
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2014-04	Tracesmart, a UK-based provider of tracing, identity verification, fraud prevention and anti-money laundering software ^[26]	Undisclosed
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2014-05	Wunelli, a telematics data business which uses driving data for insurers, enabling them to reduce risk exposure and deliver discounts to safer drivers ^[27]	£25m
Accuity	2014-09	Fircosoft, a Paris-based anti-money laundering company ^[28]	€150M
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2014-11	Health Market Science (HMS), a supplier of high quality data about US healthcare professionals ^[29]	Undisclosed
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2015-01	BAIR Analytics, a US-based law enforcement data company ^[30]	Undisclosed
LexisNexis Legal & Professional	2015-07	MLex, a media organization providing exclusive analysis and commentary on regulatory risk ^[31]	Undisclosed
Reed Business Information	2015-10	Adaptris, a fast-growing supply chain integration business ^[32]	
LexisNexis Legal & Professional	2015-11	Lex Machina , a US-based online provider of legal analytics ^[33]	
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2016-07	Insurance Initiatives, Ltd. (IIL), a business which provides a data distribution platform that extracts predominantly into the point-of-quote in the UK's Property & Casualty Insurance industry. ^[34]	
LexisNexis Legal & Professional	2017-06	Ravel Law, a San Francisco-based legal analytics company ^[35]	
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2018-01	ThreatMetrix, one of the largest repositories of online digital identities in the world	£580M (\$830M) ^[36]
Reed Exhibitions	2018-02	The Gamer Network of video game journalism websites ^[37]	Undisclosed

RELX acquisitions from 1993 to 2018

Most of these are data analytics acquisitions

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LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2020-01		ID Analytics ^[41]	\$375m
LexisNexis Risk Solutions	2020-02		Emailage ^[42]	\$480m

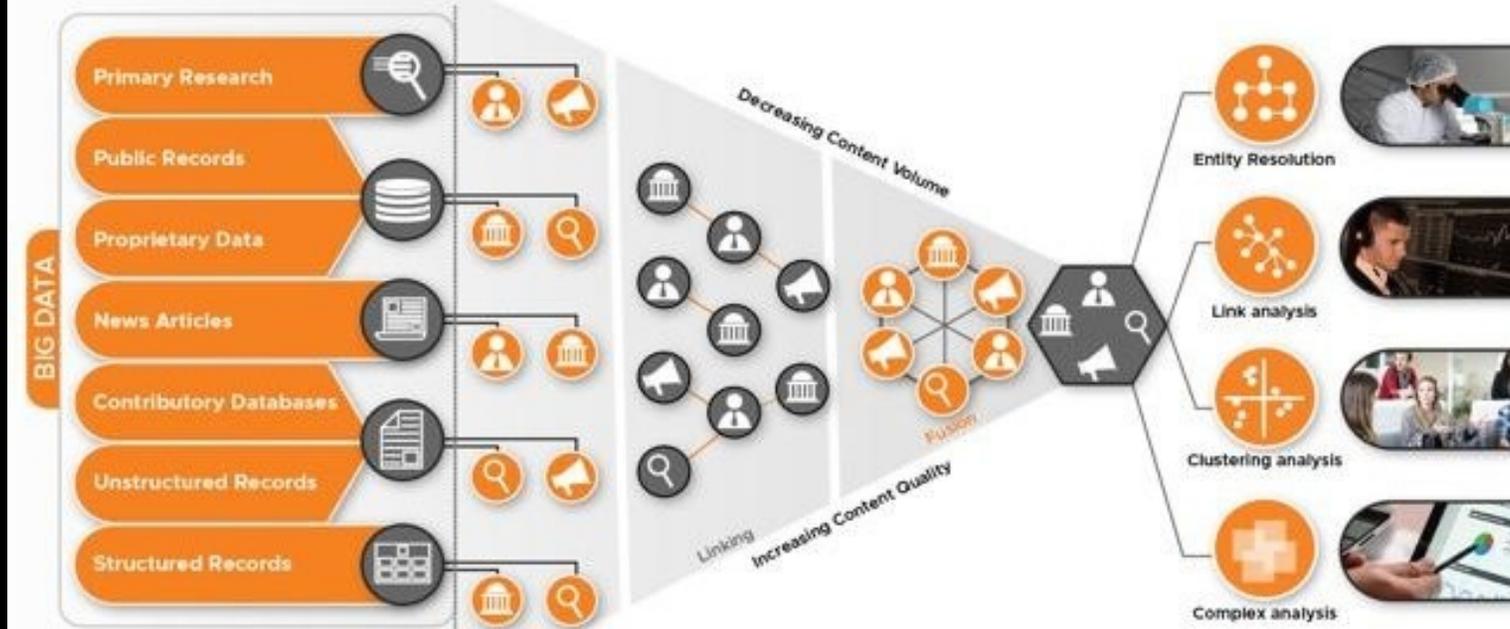
How the companies market their data analytics products



With a heritage in publishing, RELX Group has now successfully transformed its revenue streams. Over the past decade, print sales have been managed down from 50% to just 10% and the vast majority of revenues are now derived from digital. The company spends \$1.3bn on technology annually and employs 7,000 technologists across the company's four global divisions. Notably, MSCI re-categorized RELX as a business services company rather than a media group last year.



- **Broadens our analytical offerings:** The addition of ProQuest moves the academic analytical capabilities of Clarivate beyond its traditional realm of journal publication data and citations into a much wider range of information sources. There will be long-term predictive and prescriptive analytics opportunities from the enhanced combination of ProQuest's data cloud with the billions of harmonized data points in the Clarivate Research Intelligence Cloud.



RELX and "Data Analytics" Companies are building data analytics products:

- **Academic metrics** (SciVal, Pure, Plum Analytics, etc.)

AND

- **Policing & gov't data brokering** (Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies, Department of Defense, etc.)
- **Financial data products** (Landlords, Benefits Programs, Insurance Providers, Healthcare Systems, Employers)
- **Legal analytics products** (Law Firms, Government Agencies)

What do these non-library analytics products do?

LexisNexis Delivers

Public Records Data

Instantly search detailed information using data from over 37 billion public records and 10,000 disparate sources.

LexID® Linking Technology

Securely and intelligently analyzes, filters and links billions of records to provide a more complete picture of an individual.

Information Alerts and Notifications

Customizable alerts of changes in profile information can help law enforcement generate leads and respond faster to potential criminal activity.

Definitive Identification

In minutes, confidently identify, confirm and authenticate identities, especially useful for individuals with common names.

Visualization and Mapping Tools

By overlaying data onto a map, you can visualize complex relationships and see how entities are related and interconnected.

Batch Processing

Batching allows processing of thousands of records at a time to quickly locate suspects, witnesses and fugitives.

Data and Information Sharing

Integrating state and regional-specific data sets with comprehensive public records facilitates entity resolution and cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

The analytics products are **robust**

Cast a wider net with our powerful public records search

Leverage one of the largest databases of public and proprietary information available on the market today. LexisNexis® Public Records features over 84 billion public records from over 10,000 diverse sources, comprising public, private, regulated, emerging and derived data.

Draw from our vast array of standard and non-traditional sources:

- 283 million active LexIDs
- 1.5 billion bankruptcy records monitored monthly
- 77 million business contact records
- 330 million unique cell phone numbers
- 11.3 billion unique name and address combinations
- 6.6 billion motor vehicle registrations
- 6.5 billion personal property records

Identify relatives, associates and neighbors who may show up in photos or be mentioned in social media postings with a search of hundreds of networks and millions of sites on the open web.

Find cell phone data critical to serving a subpoena such as associated addresses, carriers and an exclusive phone detail report with custodial contact information for the carrier.

Reconstruct a person's job history with Employment Locator, which provides places of employment as well as contact information for employers.



Shea Swauger
@SheaSwauger

Replying to @SheaSwauger @AurariaLibrary and 4 others

My request finally came in! It's 41 pages long. Here's the cover letter they sent

Re: Personal Information Request

Dear Ms. Swauger:

In response to your request, please find a statement of Thomson Reuters' US public records currently available on its Westlaw and CLEAR (Consolidated Lead Evaluation and Reporting) research platforms. This information is provided to you as a courtesy of Thomson Reuters.

Please be aware that Thomson Reuters' public records databases are subscription-based products and are only made available to authorized subscribers and their end users for the subscriber's own business or government purposes. The products are not publicly available, offered, or sold to consumers for private use. Public display or redistribution outside of a subscriber's normal workflow is prohibited. Thomson Reuters' customers, who include law enforcement agencies, law firms and corporate entities, are required to use the products and data in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. In addition, authorized users are strictly prohibited from using our public records data for any purpose governed by the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Please note, these records were matched to either your name, and/or date of birth, and/or social security number, and/or current or previous address, city or state depending on the record type. Many records and record types do not include full identifying information. Lien and judgment records, bankruptcy records and criminal, infraction and arrest records may not include a social security number or date of birth. **It is entirely possible that a record lacking certain personal identification details, may in fact, relate to another individual, and not you.** These searches are by design broad and over-inclusive to aid investigators.

All Westlaw/CLEAR Public Records databases contain information aggregated from multiple sources by, on behalf of, or as licensed by Thomson Reuters. As in the case of all Public Records information, the nature of the information and the collection processes self-limit the ability of any aggregator to independently verify and/or validate any of the database contents. **Thomson Reuters strives to provide correct information for the convenience of its subscribers but does not warrant the comprehensiveness, completeness, accuracy or adequacy of this information for any purpose. Please note that some records included in the reports may not actually pertain to you. Legitimate public records with a matching name and/or date or year of birth may actually correspond to another individual.**

For more information about Thomson Reuters' public records offerings and privacy policies, please see the Thomson Reuters Public Records Privacy Statement at: <http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/about/legal-notices/privacy/records>

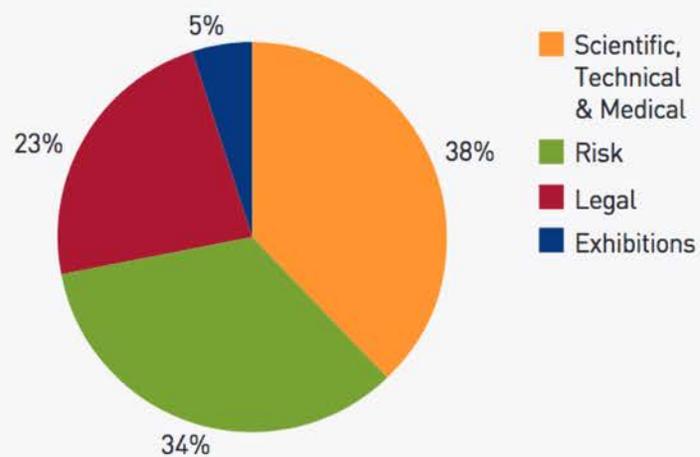
Sincerely,

Account Maintenance Team
Customer Service Specialized Support
Thomson Reuters

2020 RELX Annual Report: Revenue by Segment

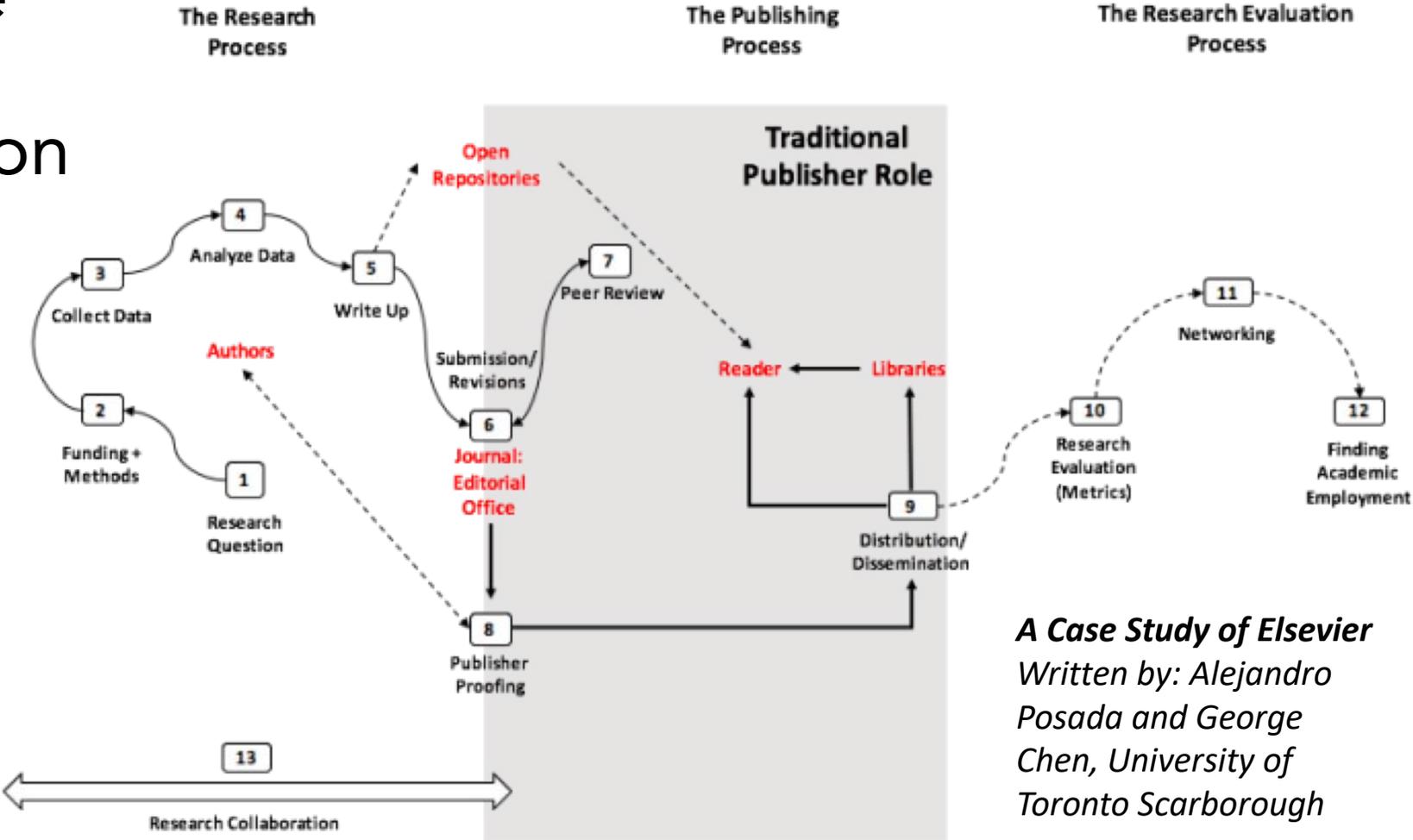
REVENUE

£7,110m



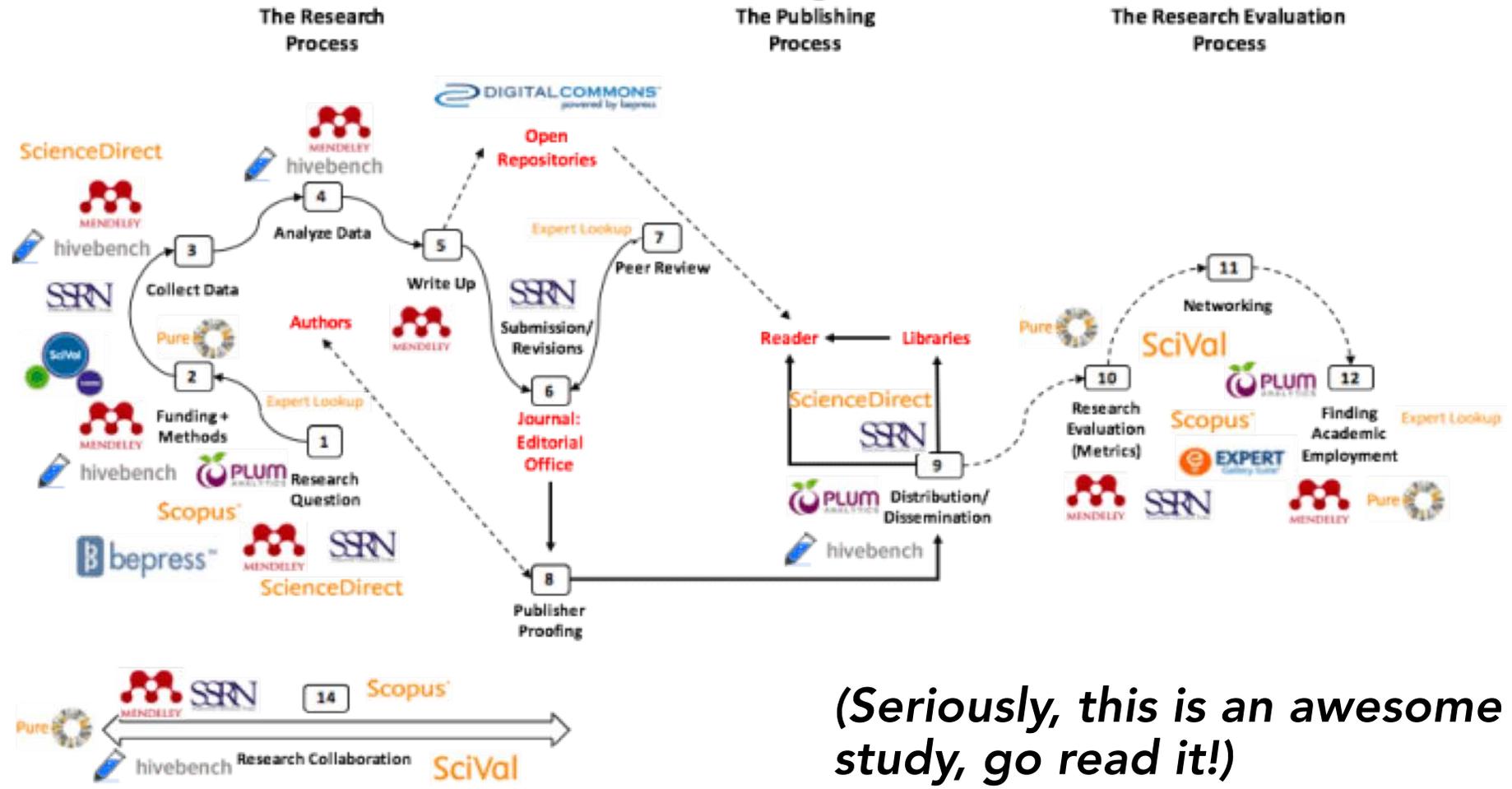
Vendors
monetize
mass-
digitization

The Academic Knowledge Production Process



*A Case Study of Elsevier
Written by: Alejandro
Posada and George
Chen, University of
Toronto Scarborough*

The Academic Knowledge Production Process



(Seriously, this is an awesome study, go read it!)

**The
research
+
surveillance
cycle**



Where does the library data go?

(We aren't sure, but putting surveillance into library products seems potentially incompatible with library ethics.)



Wolfie Christl
@WolfieChristl

Replying to @WolfieChristl

Does RELX, the scientific publisher, use personal/behavioral data on academic scholars who access publications via Elsevier for its data brokerage and risk management services? I don't know.

In any case, ScienceDirect (RELX/Elsevier) embeds ThreatMetrix (RELX/LexisNexis Risk).

The screenshot shows the ScienceDirect website interface for the article "Nanoparticles: Properties, applications and toxicities" from the Arabian Journal of Chemistry. A browser developer tools window is open, displaying the Network tab with several requests to threatmetrix.net. The requests include GET requests for files like 'js', 'css', and 'img', and a POST request for 'clear.png'. The 'Request Headers' for the POST request are visible, showing 'Accept: image/webp,*/*', 'Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br', 'Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5', 'Cache-Control: keep-alive', 'Content-Type: application/json', and 'Host: threatmetrix.net'. The 'Referer' is also visible as 'https://www.sciencedirect.com/...'. The page content includes an abstract, keywords, and a list of recommended articles.

Mail 3 AM · Aug 18, 2020 · Twitter Web App

We handed
over the keys to
our collections
and our data



We also have to use these companies' **platforms**.

We have to access content in the **ecosystems** these data companies build for us.



Even if they don't use our data now, always remember, data companies' datasets are forever...



You never know
when they'll
change their
minds!

*(j/k they'll change them when
the \$\$\$ is right.)*

From: "carolyn.bach@lexisnexis.com" <carolyn.bach@mail.lexisnexis.com>
Subject: #NoTechForICE Petition
Date: November 18, 2019 at 12:38:48 PM EST
To: sarah.lamdan@mail.law.cuny.edu
Reply-To: carolyn.bach@lexisnexis.com



Dear Law Faculty,

We are writing to share important information regarding misinformation circulating around the internet and some campuses related to who's providing ICE information to assist in their efforts to identify, apprehend, and detain undocumented immigrants. In the spirit of full transparency, we'd like to provide you the specifics of our LexisNexis contracts with ICE.

All federal agencies can purchase LexisNexis services under our contract with the federal government. ICE has exercised that right by purchasing a few ancillary public records services.

These purchases cover approximately 10% of the value of the contracts reported in the #NoTechForICE petition. However, ICE supports its core data needs through a significant contract with one of our competitors. **We are not providing jail-booking data to ICE and are not working with them to build data infrastructure to assist in their efforts.**

We do have a direct contract with ICE that provides core legal research services to detainees. This contract is consistent with the [LexisNexis \(and RELX\) commitment to access to justice](#), which is an important pillar of the Rule of Law, and covers approximately 90% of the value of the LexisNexis contracts reported in the #NoTechForICE petition. Through the agreement, detainees are provided access to an extensive electronic library of legal materials including statutes, caselaw, secondary materials, bilingual user guides, and immigration forms that enable detainees to better understand their rights and prepare their immigration cases. In addition, **LexisNexis (Legal and Risk Solutions) does not sell subscriber user information** collected from LexisNexis Legal and Professional customers to ICE or any other government agencies.

We simply want to make sure you have all the facts regarding claims surfaced by the student chapters of the National Lawyers Guild. LexisNexis (and RELX) **does not** play a key "role in fueling the surveillance, imprisonment, and deportation of hundreds of thousands of immigrants each year." Please contact your [LexisNexis representative](#) if you have questions.

LexisNexis® Law School Team

LEXISNEXIS TO PROVIDE GIANT DATABASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO ICE

The company signed a contract with an ICE division that plays a key role in deportations.



Sam Biddle

April 2 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Discussion