

Elsevier

Elsevier Publishing Founded: 1880 Headquarters: Amsterdam, Netherlands Parent Company: RELX Group Known For: The Lancet, Cell, Journal of Clinical Neuroscience, and over 2,700 scientific journals

□ **Strengths Massive Reach & Infrastructure** Elsevier operates one of the most expansive journal networks globally, covering nearly every field of science, medicine, and engineering. It provides an unparalleled platform for academic dissemination.

High-Impact Flagships Journals like The Lancet and Cell are leading voices in medicine and biology, often publishing practice-changing or paradigm-shifting research.

Digital Tools & Analytics Products like ScienceDirect, Scopus, and Mendeley have become deeply integrated into academic workflow and research evaluation, offering citation tracking, metrics, and article-level data.

Professional Editorial Operations Many of its journals maintain rigorous peer review, use established COI disclosures, and uphold ethical publishing standards—especially at the higher tiers.

□ **Major Criticisms 1. Exorbitant Pricing & Paywalls** Elsevier is widely criticized for charging excessive subscription fees to libraries, universities, and individuals, limiting access to publicly funded research.

Many articles are locked behind paywalls, costing \$30–\$50 per download, effectively monetizing knowledge produced by publicly funded researchers.

2. Profit-Driven Model Over Open Science Elsevier reported profit margins of 30–40%, higher than most tech giants, while relying heavily on unpaid peer reviewers and editors.

It has actively lobbied against open access mandates, putting it at odds with the principles of public knowledge and academic freedom.

3. Predatory Open Access Practices Although it offers open-access options, they come at steep article processing charges (APCs), often \$3,000–\$5,000 per article—excluding researchers from less wealthy institutions or countries.

4. Content Quality Dilution As its portfolio grows, so does the volume of low-impact, low-rigor journals, many of which are rarely cited and serve to inflate publication numbers rather than scientific progress.

Journal prestige varies wildly: from world-leading titles (Lancet) to methodologically weak or niche journals with little editorial oversight.

5. Legal Aggressiveness Elsevier has pursued legal action against Sci-Hub, ResearchGate, and even universities, casting itself as an adversary to open scientific sharing.

6. Ethical Contradictions Despite publishing on ethics and global health, Elsevier has accepted military contracts, hosted arms industry conferences, and faced criticism for publishing pseudo-scientific or fraudulent studies in the past.

□ **Overall Verdict** Elsevier is the embodiment of the tension between science as a public good and science as a commercial product. It provides powerful tools, visibility, and infrastructure for global research—but at a price that limits access, reinforces inequality, and increasingly prioritizes profit

over progress.

While top-tier Elsevier journals remain essential reading, researchers and institutions must be vigilant consumers and ethical contributors, recognizing the wider implications of where and how they publish.

Elsevier B.V. (Dutch pronunciation: ['ɛlzəvi:r]) is an academic publishing company that publishes medical and scientific literature. It is a part of the Reed Elsevier group. Based in Amsterdam, the company has operations in the United Kingdom, United States, Mexico, Brazil, Spain and elsewhere.

Leading products include journals such as The Lancet and Cell, books such as Gray's Anatomy, the ScienceDirect collection of electronic journals, the Trends and Current Opinion series of journals, and the online citation database Scopus. Its free researcher collaboration tool, 2collab, launched in 2007, was discontinued in 2011.

Elsevier publishes 250,000 articles a year in 2,200 journals.

Its archives contain seven million publications. Total yearly downloads amount to 240 million.

In 2010, Elsevier reported a profit margin of 36% on revenues of US\$3.2 billion.

Elsevier's high profit margins and copyright practices have subjected it to much criticism.

Journals

[Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery](#)

[Interdisciplinary Neurosurgery](#)

[Neurosurgery Clinics of North America](#)

[Operative Techniques in Neurosurgery](#)

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