

SCIENCE'S COMPASS

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entists. Also, many talented white students who are not likely to receive NSF fellowships still apply for graduate study and work as teaching assistants; why should we assume that minorities will lack the same chutzpah? Finally, minority fellowships were never intended for marginal cases in need of encouragement to remain in science. They are instead for dynamic and talented minorities for whom no recruitment is necessary. These are the people we want in science, and the only way to increase their ranks is to cast our nets wider long before they reach graduate school.

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References

1. J. Kumagai, *Phys. Today* 51, 56 (August 1998).

Let the Market Decide

Regarding the letter "Journal proliferation" from Peter T. Shepherd of Elsevier Science (*Science's* Compass, 21 Aug., p. 1143), it is a risible irony that Elsevier Science, publisher of *Tetrahedron Letters*, is complaining that competition from a new American Chemical Society (ACS) publication represents an un-

fortunate example of "journal proliferation." Surely it is up to contributors and customers, rather than the publisher, to decide whether the market is "well served" by a single dominant journal in a particular subject niche.

Research libraries are paying dearly for the near-monopoly that Elsevier has achieved in specific publishing areas. Expenditures for journals have increased in research libraries by more than 8% annually during the last decade. In the meantime, journal prices have increased by 12%, twice the annual rate of increase of health care and more than four times the general rate of inflation in the United States.

The ACS publishes quality, low-cost chemistry journals. The electronic versions of their journals are among the best digital products currently available. Every article that appears in the new ACS journal will be one that cannot be published in *Tetrahedron Letters* for more than double the cost.

Let the marketplace decide if this is journal proliferation or healthy competition.

Ken Frazier

Library Director, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA, and Chair, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition

Notes

1. Statistics for 1997 available from the Association of Research Libraries, www.arl.org

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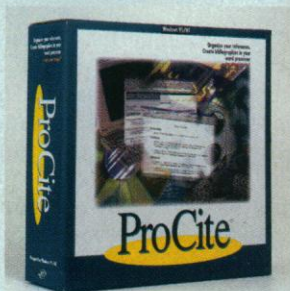
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