Challenges Experienced by Scholarly Publishers
in the Current Digital Landscape

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Content Discovery and Dissemination

- Platforms

- Persistent Identifiers (DOIs, ORCIDs, RORs, ISNI)

- Metadata

- Content formats

- Accessibility

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Digitising workflows

- Online workflow systems
- Automated processes (plagiarism screening, GenAI screening, peer review, editing, layout, finances)
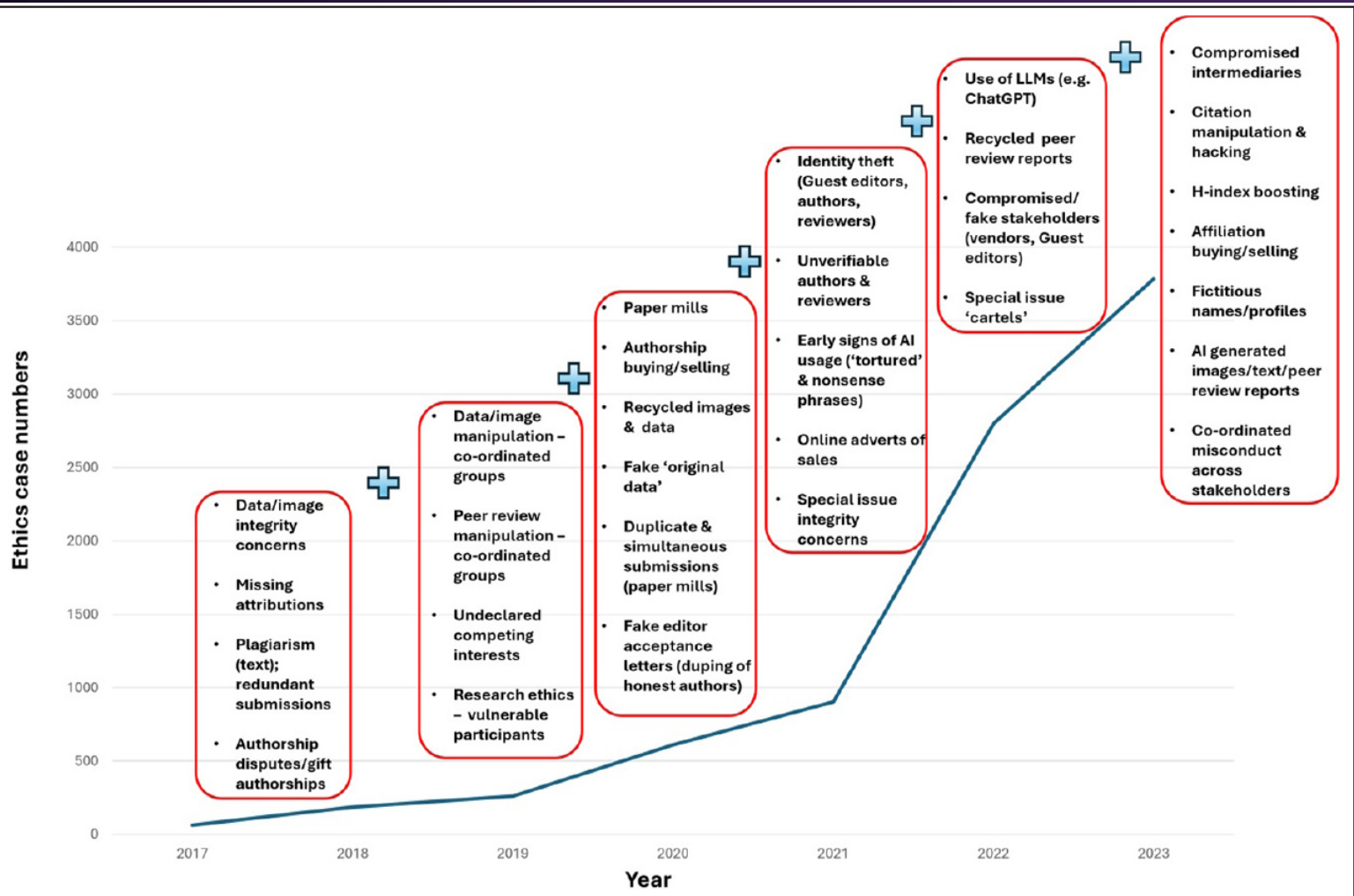- Automated metadata supply to aggregators and vendors in ONIX format

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Ethics and Research Integrity

- Unethical publishing practices (plagiarism, generative AI, paper mills)

- Screening for legal and ethical issues

- Retractions

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Error/unintentional misconduct				Intentional misconduct	
Authorship disputes	Affiliation misrepresentation	Data sharing issues	Citation manipulation or stacking	Fake data (including qualitative studies)	Paper mills & organized 'cartels'
Inadequate anonymization	Duplicate submission and publication	Missing or incomplete competing interests	Peer review manipulation	Image manipulation (faked or misrepresented)	Buying & selling authorship and/or articles and/or citations
Text recycling & Redundant publication	Inappropriate citations or poor attribution	Gift or ghost authorship	Biased decision-making (including peer review	Data "massaging" (e.g. p-hacking, HARKing)	Identity theft: Guest Editors, authors or reviewers
Use of generative AI tools (all stakeholders)	Consent to publish & Acknowledgements (lack of appropriate permissions)	Inadequate or biased reporting of research	Mis/dis information vs scholarly debate	Unethical research/ lack of approvals & valid informed consent	Fictitious profiles (authors, reviewers) and/or affiliations
		Plagiarism (ideas, text, thesaurus); 'tortured' phrases	Breaches of copyright or lack of reuse permissions	Nonsensical content / Hoax articles/ spam submissions	Compromised stakeholders

Revenue

- Gold and Diamond Open Access publishing
- Alternative revenue streams (leveraging content through data mining)
- Alternative formats (video, audio, data sets, backlist mining, translations)

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Impact and Analytics

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- Use and reach not sales as measure of impact
- Publishers need to be able to collect variety of metrics on the use of their publications (DOAB, DOAJ, Crossref, Google Analytics, WoS, Scopus)

Copyright protection

- Copyright Amendment Bill

- NSFAS and illegal distribution of copyrighted material

- Generative AI and large language models

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Sources

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