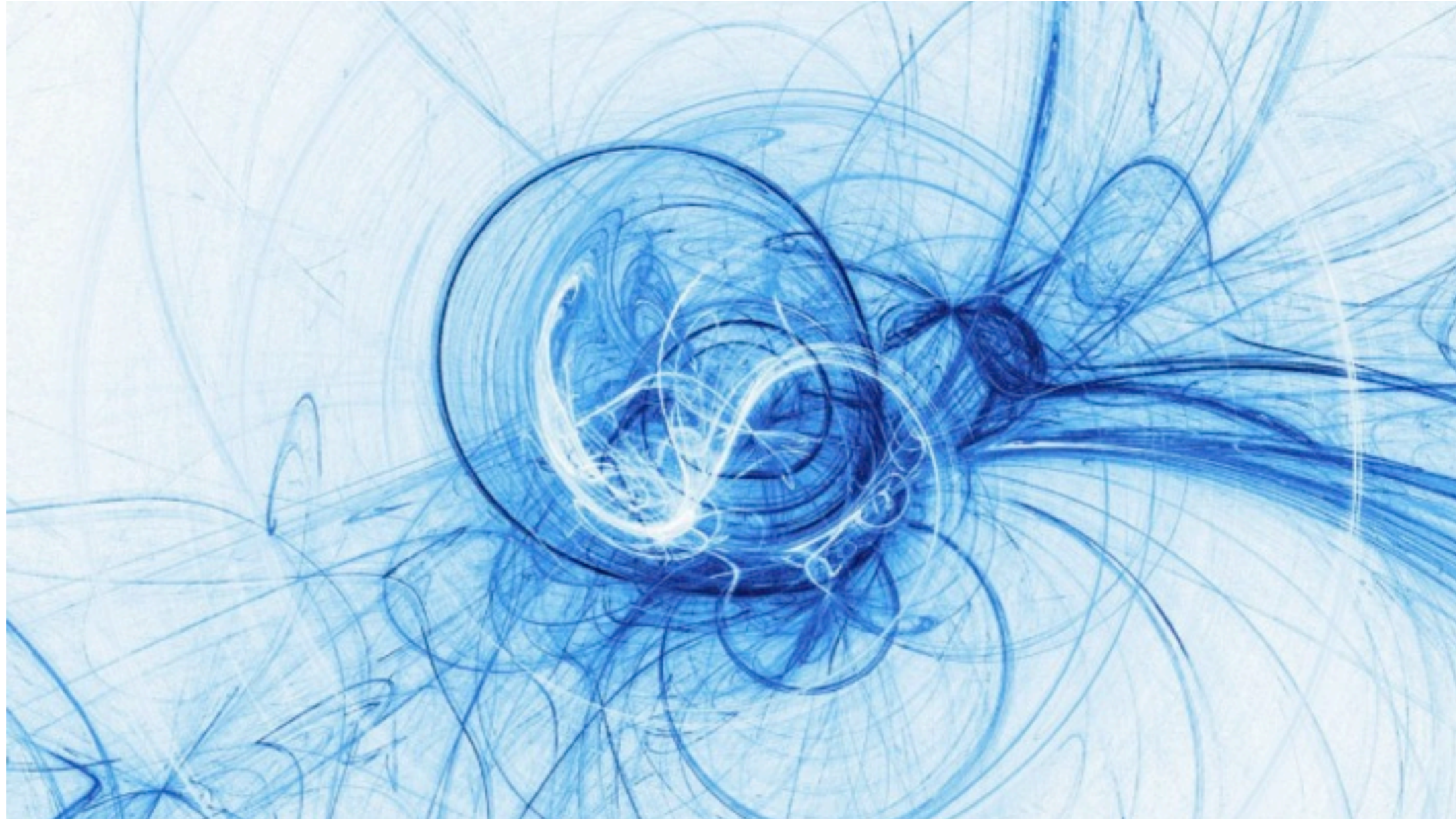*Gérard Boismenu*
Professor

President
Consortium
Érudit

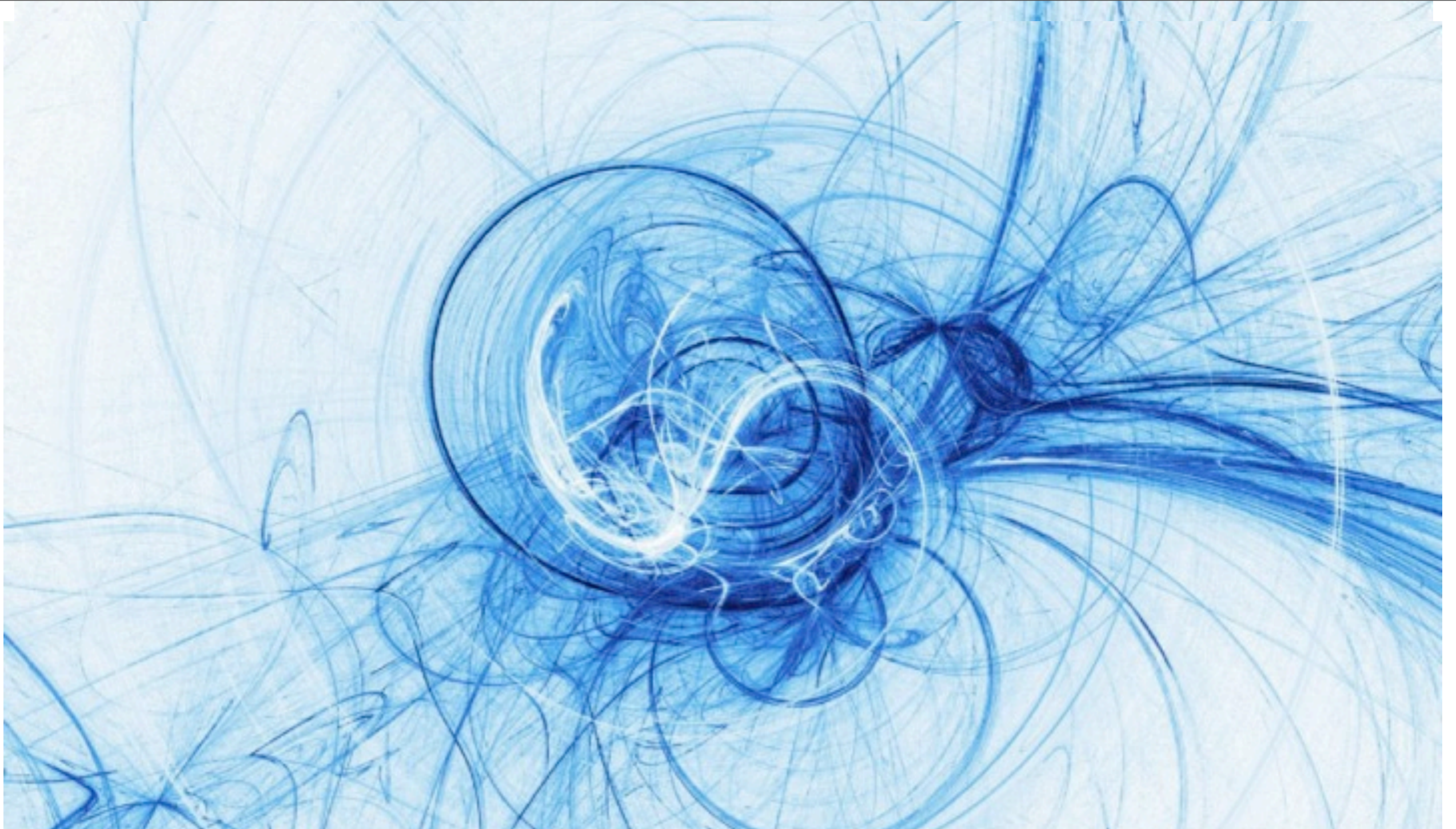# For a professional and credible alternative to commercial publishers

Four Dimensions

1. Who are we ?
   Short presentation of Érudit

2. A specialized aggregator
   of SSH journals

3. What's next:
   Development of the book collection

4. Érudit's approach

Who are we ?
Short presentation of Érudit

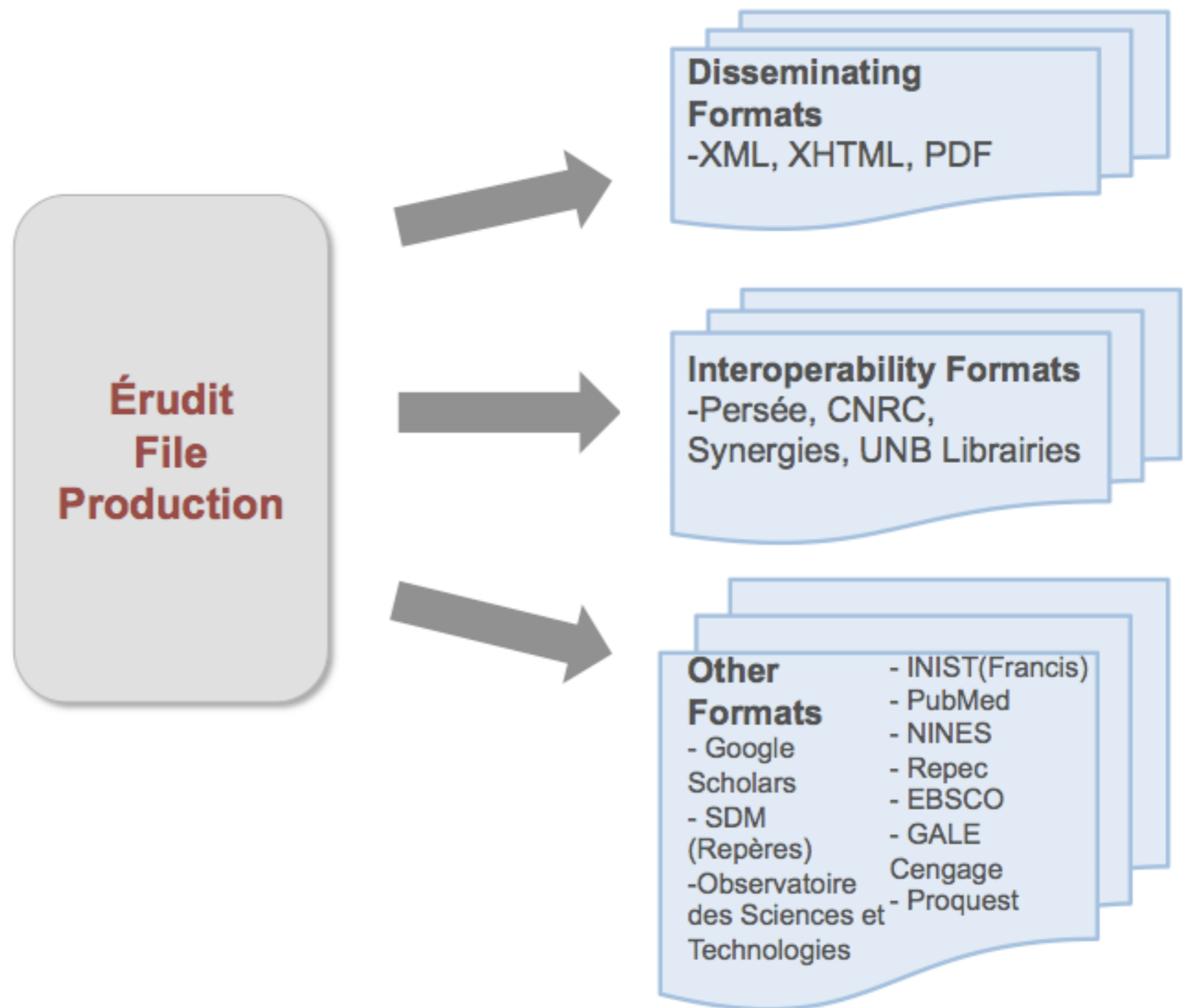# Since 1998

érudit

Promoting and disseminating research

Commitment to the dissemination of scholarly publications, especially in social sciences and humanities (SSH)

Production, dissemination and preservation services in Érudit

- Professional and technical staff specialized in digital publishing services (at low cost)

- High standards and norms for digital publishing (XML, XHTML, TIFF, SVG, OAI-PMH, Z39.50, NLM XML, Exodic, MARC, COUNTER, RSS, OpenURL)

- Hosting and security, Web interface, Search engine

- Highly structured metadata for all collection

- Dissemination strategy

- Long-term Preservation

- Subscription management

Highly structured metadata and dissemination

Érudit File Production

Disseminating Formats
-XML, XHTML, PDF

Interoperability Formats
-Persée, CNRC, Synergies, UNB Librairies

Other Formats
- Google Scholars
- SDM (Repères)
-Observatoire des Sciences et Technologies
- INIST(Francis)
- PubMed
- NINES
- Repec
- EBSCO
- GALE Cengage
- Proquest

Different types of document

- 63 400 articles, 74 journals (+ 11 UNB), 34 journals completely digitized, 142 current issues yearly published
- 17 books, more to come in next future
- more than 21,000 theses
- 2665 documents in the Repository (32 research units)
- Soon (new): 31 cultural magazines completely digitized

Advanced search in the full collection, by types of document or by journal titles

An infrastructure owned and at the service of the scholar community

- A multi-institutional consortium of research universities (Université de Montréal, Université Laval and Université du Québec à Montréal)
- Make possible an economic sustainable model for not-for-profit scholarly publishers

Érudit gives high visibility to publications in SSH

- Consultation statistics per month
  - more than 1.3 million documents consulted (pages views-AWStats)
  - and more than 210,000 visitors
- Subscriptions from consortia (Canada, Québec, France, Taiwan, etc.) and individuals
- With relatively few resources, Érudit has already reached remarkable results
- Érudit has succeeded where traditional print publishing has failed
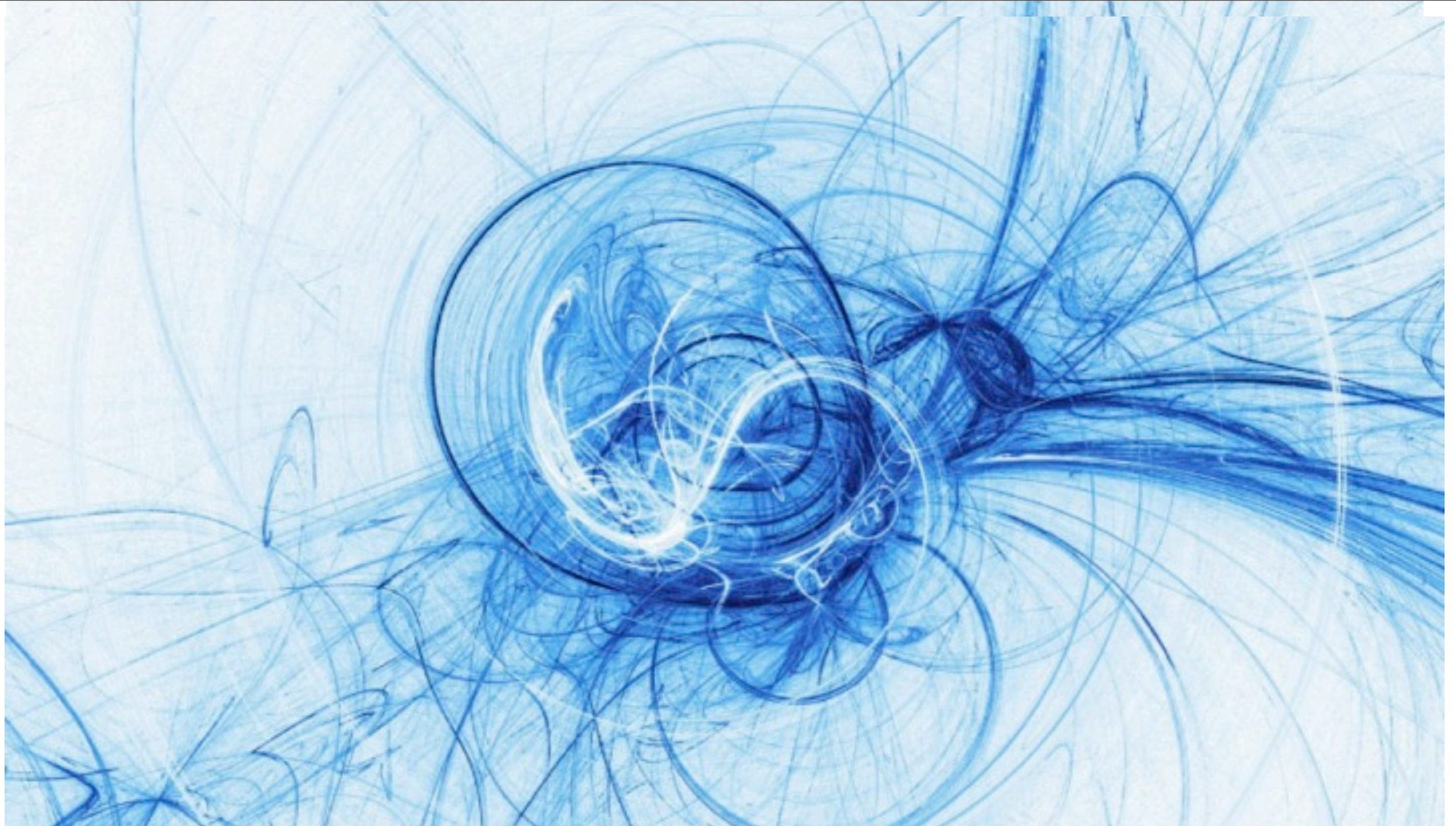
A specialized aggregator of SSH journals

We work with not-for-profit publishers

- One segment of the marketplace and a type of practices

- Significant position within the field of major journals in general

- Dominant position within national communication structures

- "Responsible publishers" $\Rightarrow$ recovery of costs

- Examples: Learned societies, Research centers, Universities, «Professional» associations, University Presses, small independant publishers

Public good perspective

• Journals and other scholarly documents have to be considered as <u>Public Good</u> by institutions, government administrators and funding agencies – this is real democratization of knowledge

• Independent scholarly journals are by essence non-for-profit

• When journals are subscription based, it is by necessity: they need revenues to cover part of their production and dissemination expenses
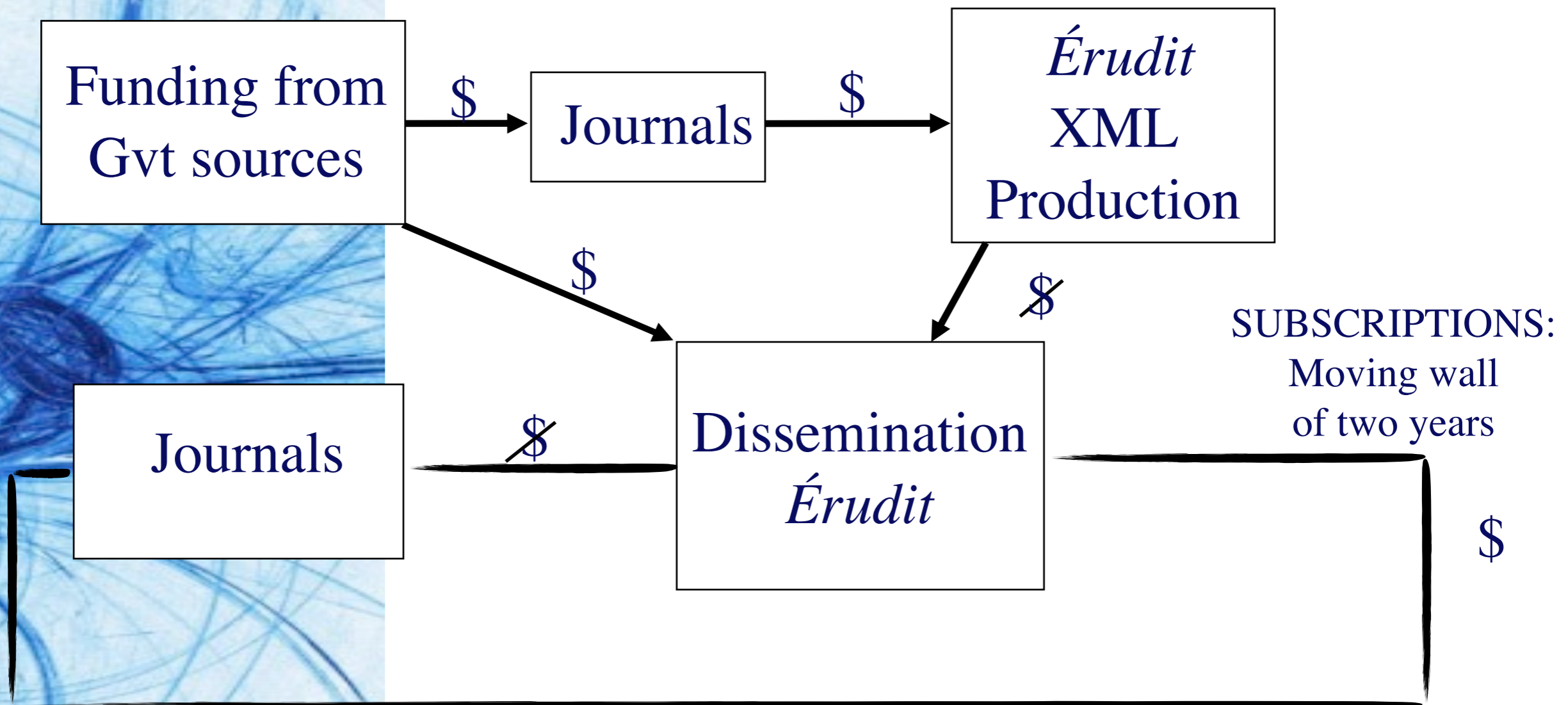
Economic choices for journals

- Érudit acknowledges the journal's needs for revenues, while advocating and lobbying for full public and open access.

- Érudit adheres to the concept of fair publishing, while promoting the goal for open access

- The consensus with journal's editors is: full free access or a two years moving wall

Economic Model: public funding and sales revenues

Funding from Gvt sources $→$ Journals $→$ *Érudit* XML Production

$ → Dissemination *Érudit*
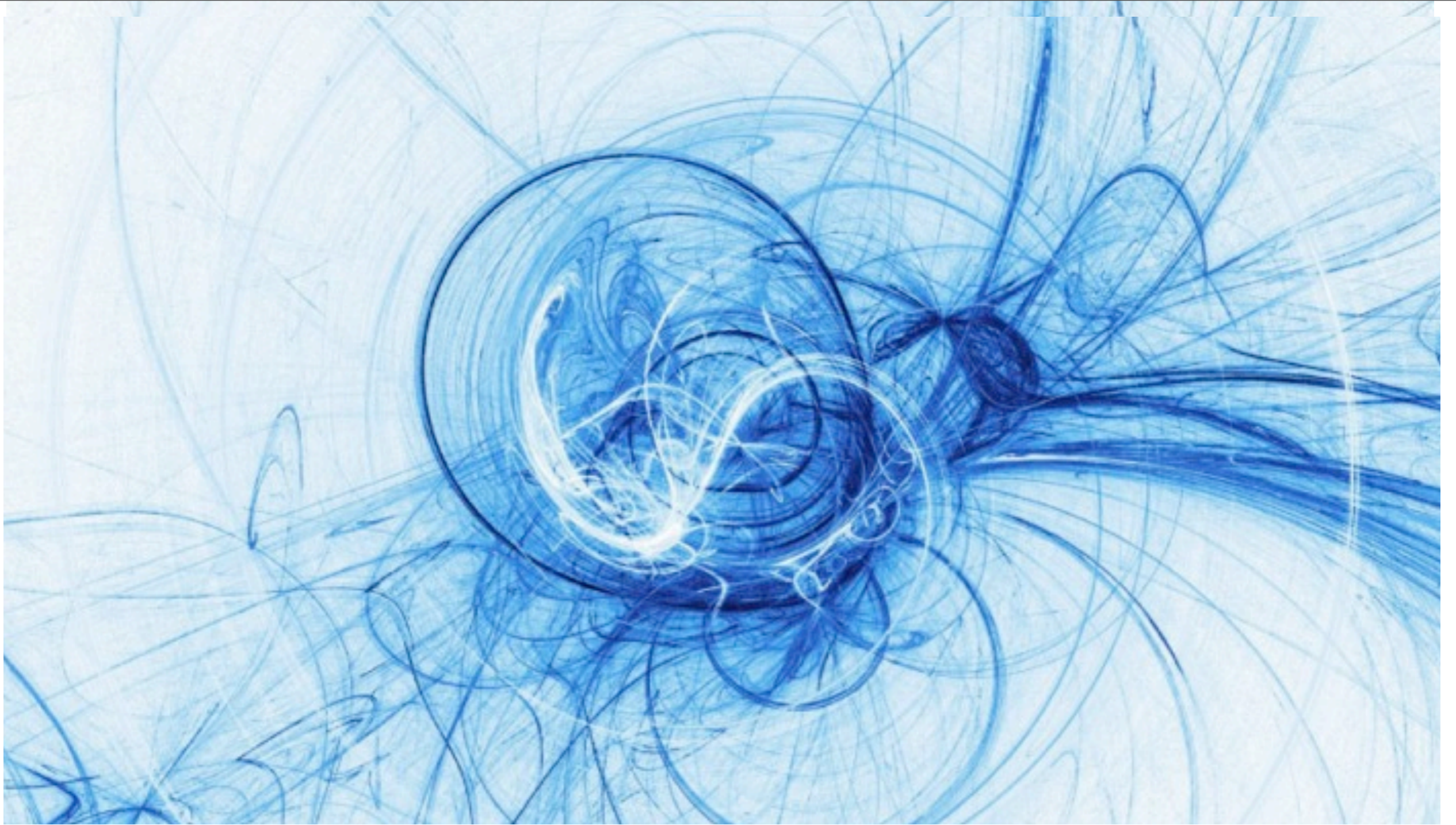
$ ← Journals

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Moving wall of two years

$

As much Open Access as we collectively can afford

- Then: 90% of the journal articles collection in Érudit are open access

- Subscription revenues go to journal editors

- Books (until now) and proceedings, the repository and theses are full free access

What's next: Development of the book collection

A new trend

• After journals, library acquisition of ebooks is on the agenda ➡ *HighWire Press* survey results

•http://highwire.stanford.edu/PR/PR_HWeBookSurveyResults_4Mar10.pdf

• Librarians predict a rapid growth of ebooks acquisition and library budgets for ebooks are growing

Most important findings

- "Users tend to discover ebooks through both the library catalogue and search engines

- While users prefer PDFs, format preference will likely change as technology changes

- DRM seems to hinder ebook use for library patrons; ability to print is essential

- The most popular business model for librarians is purchase with perpetual access"

"Make a move or stay there"
"Déménager ou rester là"

The new digital paradigm

• New devices and services become necessity (Internet, iPod, PDA, laptop computers, etc.)

• Coexistence of two environments

Period of transition

• The choice "stay there" can be made, but while also admitting the existence of a general trend

• "Make a move" engages in a transition, a process of hybridization. *Tabula rasa* would not be good advice in those matters.

One content (text), but multiple "materialities"

- The digital does not make the book immaterial. The digital is physical and real
- A text has to take many forms of materialization to meet its readers
- The reader (or the librarian) choices the relation(s) he/she needs with the text
  - Print (Hardcover, Paperback)
  - Audio (iPod/MP3, Smart phone, CD-ROM/DVD-ROM)
  - Digital (Personal computer, Smart phone, E-book device)
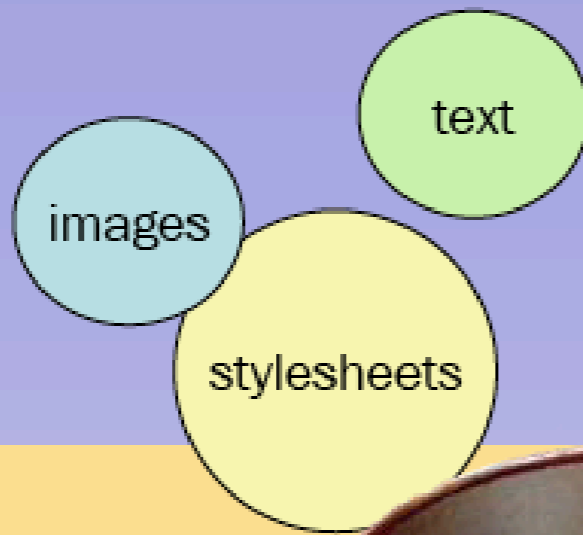
Forms of materialization (1)

- E-book (digital book): the content in electronic format (PDF, XML, ePub).
- Challenge for all encoding formats
  - Produce ALL media
  - Long term preservation
  - Interoperability, multiple platforms
  - Adaptable to all types of screens (*reflowable text*)
- E-book device (e-book reader): a device to read e-books (eReader from Sony, iLiad from iRex, or iPad from Apple)

Forms of materialization (2)

- Reading software: Display the content of e-books encoded in one or different formats (+ reading aid functions)
  - Acrobat (PDF)
  - FireFox, Explorer (HTML, XHTML, XML)
  - iPad (PDF, ?)
  - Sony Reader (eReader, ePub, PDF/SONY)
- Metadata: "data on data" to describe a documentary unit, aside its media
  - Contain: title, author, publisher, rights, language, genre, isbn, etc.
  - Examples: ONIX, Dublin Core.

...to

text

images

stylesheets

metadata

rights information

<XML composition

Digital Asset
Management

print

POD

large print
POD

audio

eBooks

chapters and
"chunks"

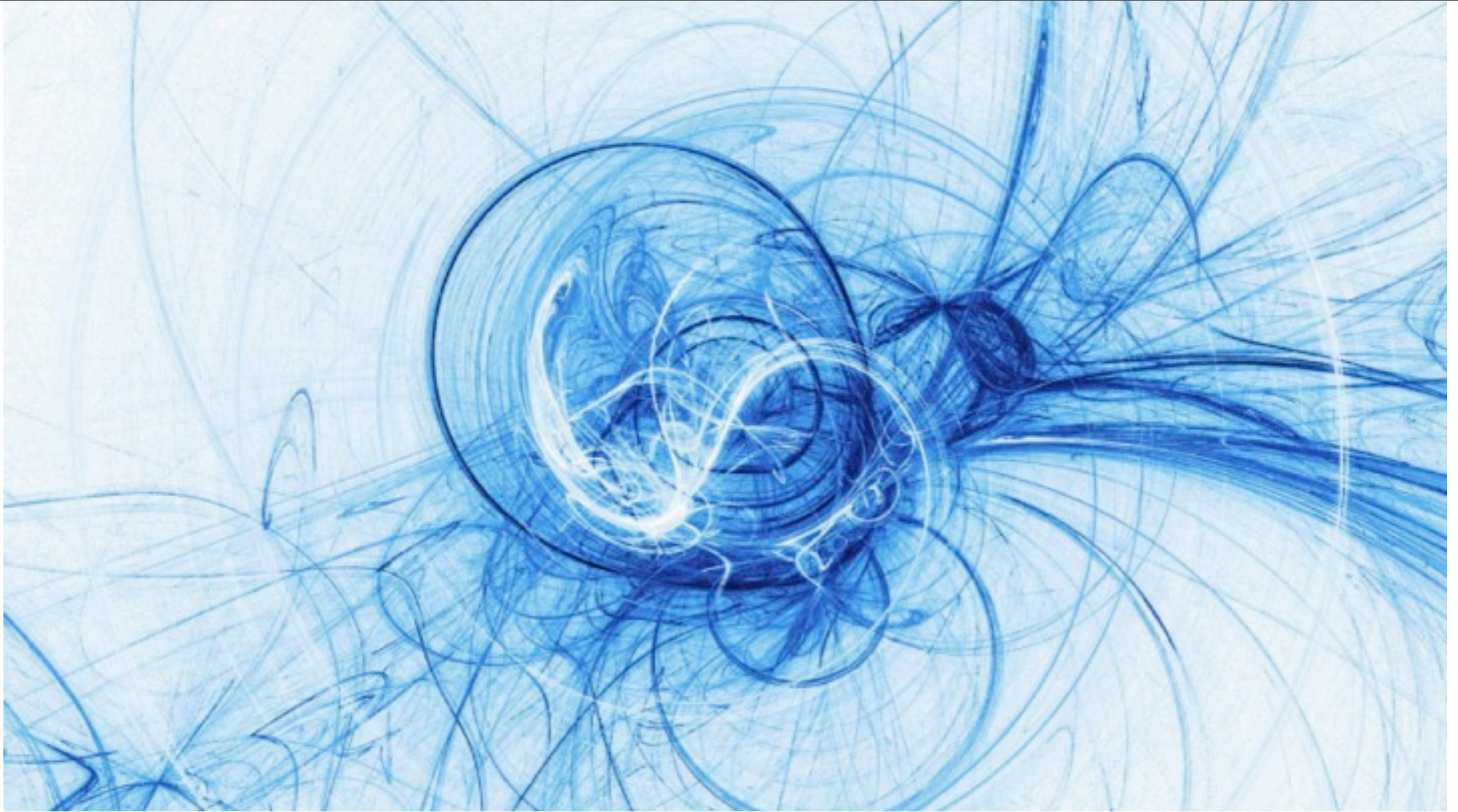**The "book" as an abstract resource**

PUBLISHING
dimensions

Main issues
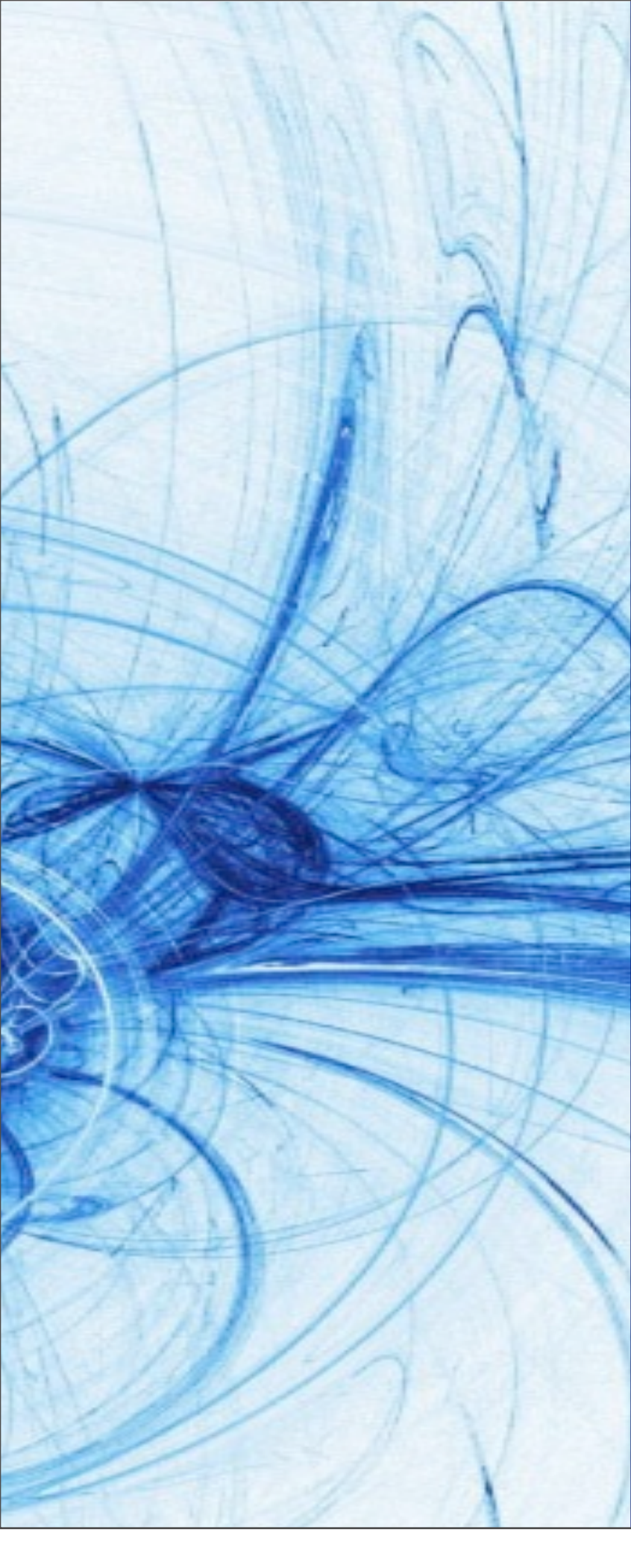
• Put together scholarly books in a collection

• Integration of the book in digital publishing process

• Development of a high quality publishing process at low cost

• Definition of an economic model for books in a transition period

It is time to move forward

Érudit's approach

- ❖ Our mission : promoting and disseminating of research outcomes

- ❖ Érudit is a public infrastructure within the university community

- ❖ Public financial support (universities and granting agencies) for the infrastructure

- ❖ High standards and norms for digital publishing, dissemination and preservation

- ❖ Real source of revenues for journals and (eventualy) book publishers

- ❖ Our goals: Open Source, Open formats, Open Access (as far as we can)

- ◉ **A professional and credible alternative to commercial publishers**

References

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- G. Beaudry, M. Boucher, T. Niemann et G. Boismenu, « Érudit : le numérique au service de l'édition en sciences humaines et sociales», *Mémoires du livre/Studies in Book Culture*, Volume 1, numéro 1, 2009.
  http://www.erudit.org/revue/memoires/2009/v1/n1/038637ar.html