

**Scholarly Publishing in Japan :
A Conceptual Framework and Some Case Studies**

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Abstract

This paper on scholarly publishing in Japan consists of two parts. In the first part, the author presents an analytical framework for an examination of the publishing industry. It is shown that two sociological perspectives, “production of culture” and “social world,” provide a number of useful concepts through which the world of academic publishing can be meaningfully analyzed. In the second part, the paper reports the findings of case studies of English journals published by three academic associations in Japan. It is suggested that lack of a productive relationship between the academic world and the world of publishing is one of the major factors leading to the poor performance of English journals.