
Subject:	Why the TDB project publishes with independent publishers rather than with OECD Publications.
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Why does the TDB project publish with independent publishers?

This small PM aims to explain why the TDB project publishes its review reports with independent publishers such as Elsevier Science, and not with OECD publications. The main reasons are the following:

- Part of the incentive for otherwise busy experts in the field to even consider participating in these reviews, is the fact that being co-author of a high-quality book published by a well-known publisher with a good renommé is good for the scientific/academic career. This is not necessarily true for books published by the OECD. The TDB review reports are essentially written by experts in chemistry. The authors expect them to be visible to other chemists. However, chemists rarely look for information from OECD publications, and OECD publications do not at all carry the same “weight” in chemistry as do books from independent, well-known scientific publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley Interscience and Academic Press.
- OECD publications have restrictions on format and size. Basically, whereas OECD does not want books that are too thick and hence expensive to print, independent publishers have no such problems. Indeed, some publishers require that the books not be too thin. Also, OECD publications will usually require that the entire work is translated into French. It can be difficult to get permission not to do this, but nevertheless absolutely necessary, since translation would be very difficult and outrageously expensive.
- Independent well-known publishers of scientific literature will, out of self-interest, usually do a good job promoting the books they sell. Since the

OECD usually publishes economic reports, and the NEA publishes a lot concerning nuclear physics but very little pertaining to chemistry, OECD/NEA publications does not have the promotional network required for the TDB reviews, which are, as stated, essentially chemistry publications. This is an important point, not only to ensure that the existence of the books is brought to the attention of the intended readers, but also to ensure that the authors get sufficient exposure in terms of reviews in scientific publications. Ensuring the appropriate level of exposure for the books is important as an incentive for the authors to participate in the project.

- Independent well-known scientific publishers such as Elsevier have a good distribution network, and their publications are easy to obtain all over the world. This is not necessarily true for OECD publications.

The above has been discussed with the people concerned at the OECD/NEA, and agreement on this policy has been reached.