

# Preserving the scientific commons

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## “The tragedy of the commons”

- A good that is held in common → encourages exploitation
- Sharing responsibility for the commons requires adopting a community ethic
- The community enforces the ethic
  - The “guild” system of training
  - Rewards and punishments

# What is the “scientific commons”?

- **Shared Knowledge**
- The community of scientists
- The beneficiaries of science

# The responsibility for the commons

- Scientific community
- the myth of self correcting science
  - Open source publishing
  - The failures of wiki
  - The invasion of the WWW

## Threats to the scientific commons - internal

- The expansion of the scientific community
- Bibliometrics and advancement
- “fraud and abuse” investigations
  - The Needleman case
- Individual and institutional malfeasance

## Threats to the scientific commons - external

- The problems of success
  - The rise of science based policies
  - Evidence based medicine
- The intervention of interested parties
  - Tobacco research
  - Climate science
- De-privileging of science
- Scientific illiteracy



## The “weapons” of the commons

- Transparency
- Accessibility
- Responsibility
- Extending the ethos