
Too much writing?

Morris Bishop gave a speech as President of the Modern Language Association that we are certain will be published in some form. In it he denounced the flood of publication of materials that are unoriginal and go unread. For our part, who would have felt suffocated by even the reading that William of Occam had to do, we think that the problem Professor Bishop raises tends to solve itself: The limits of reading being fixed, the expansion of writing has no effect (De Grazia's Theorem of the De-lectorate).

As for publishing, that's another matter: Publishing and therefore writing expands with the organization of the market and consumption. Further, some people are happier publishing (or writing) than not. Finally, the Establishment often cannot tell good work from bad; Professor Bishop's paper will be as much read as the best books of 1965, on the average. I would not conclude anything from that except that officials of scholarly groups should stop using their posts to demand more restrictions of their fellows.

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