

AI-Generated Content as an Emerging Driver of Journal Retractions

MARKET OFFERS

CONTENT SIGNALS

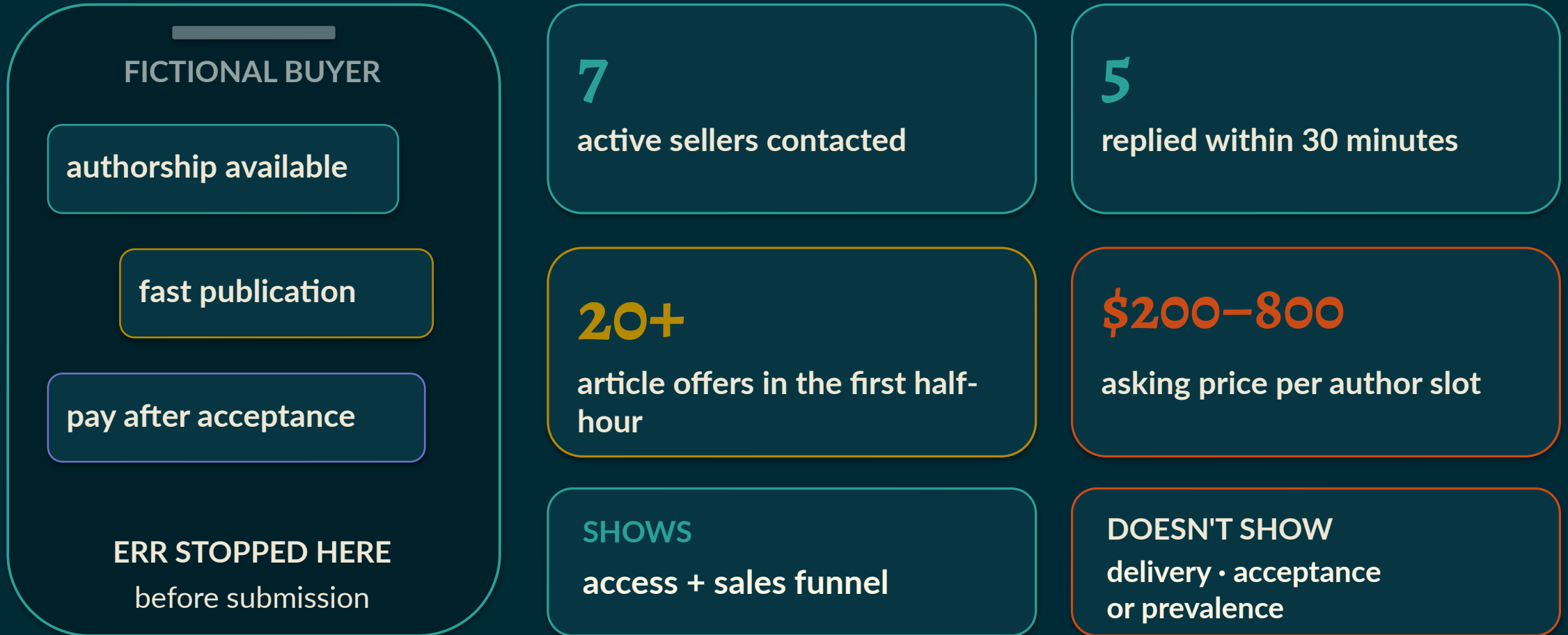
EDITORIAL ACTIONS



Retractions record enforcement— not prevalence.

A paper-mill storefront is one WhatsApp message away

ERR Novaator's newsroom tested access—not publication success



The integrity response is already outpaced

PNAS: expert-curated suspected paper-mill corpus and trend extrapolation

CURATED CORPUS • OPENALEX-MATCHED

29,956

suspected products

8,589 retracted

28.7% observed

ESTIMATED DOUBLING TIME

1.5 y

suspected products

3.3 y

retractions

TREND EXTRAPOLATION

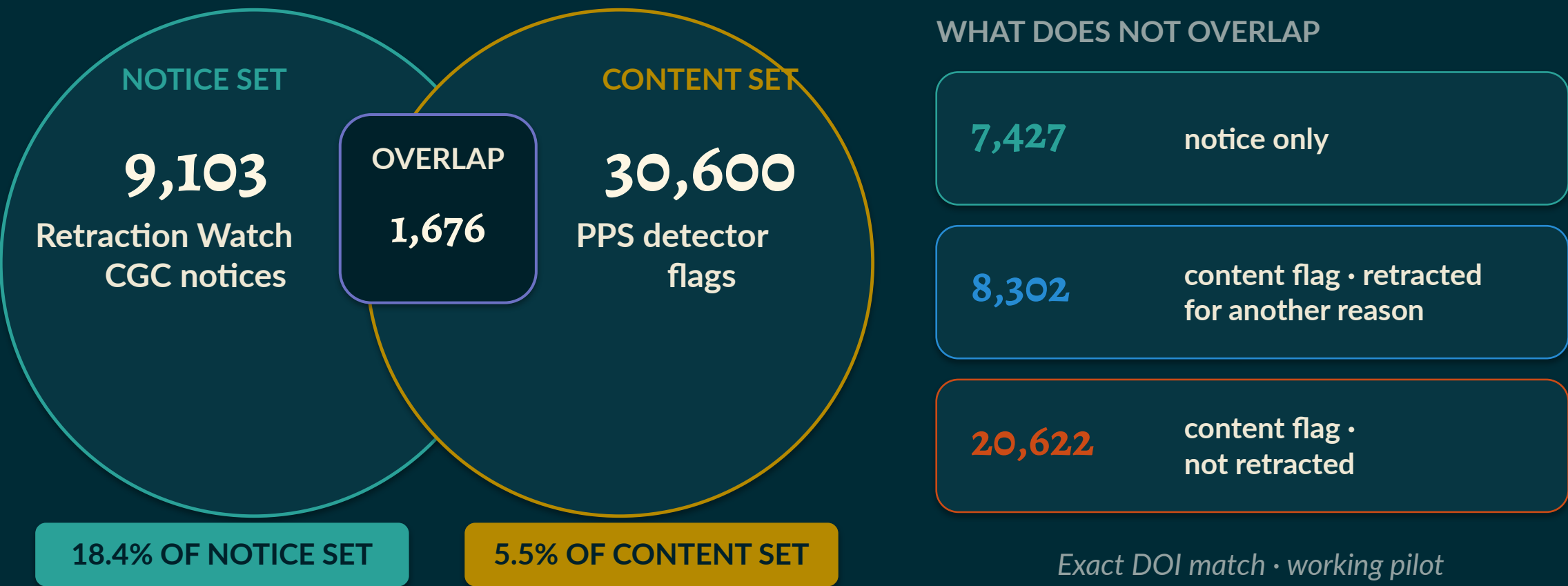
~25%

of suspected products
will ever be retracted

*Trend estimate—not
population prevalence*

Content screening and retraction notices barely overlap

Working DOI cross-walk: different instruments observe different literatures



Retraction waves are publisher-sized

60,893 retractions • 9,102 CGC-tagged • frozen 2010–2025 snapshot

2023

CGC-TAGGED SHARE

41.84%

of all retractions

LEADING LINEAGE

98.44%

of tagged records

Hindawi / Wiley

2024

CGC-TAGGED SHARE

23.46%

of all retractions

LEADING LINEAGE

90.54%

of tagged records

Hindawi / Wiley

2025

CGC-TAGGED SHARE

24.18%

of all retractions

LEADING LINEAGE

83.79%

of tagged records

IOS Press

A simple decomposition changes the scientific story

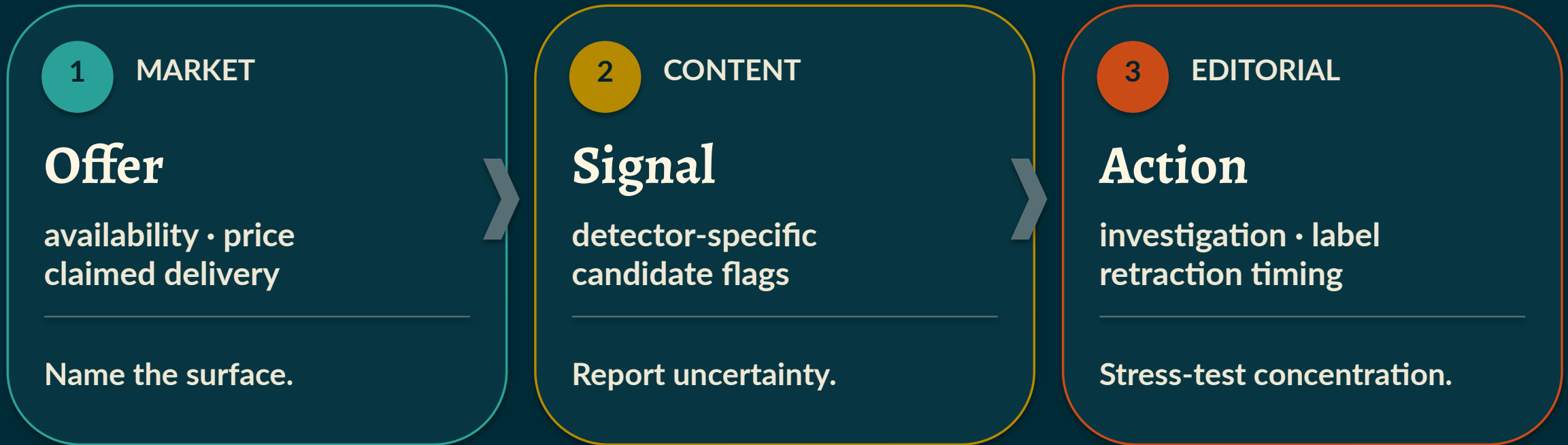
Remove the two leading publisher lineages from numerator and denominator



The broader signal remains; the system-wide headline does not.

Count the three surfaces separately

They are linked, but they are not interchangeable denominators



The record is real—and administratively selected.