

Lib4RI – UPDATE #16 English APRIL 2019



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Ready or not HERE COMES OPEN ACCESS

Plan S *Plan S* has shaken the academic community awake and created a lively discussion on Open Access (OA) publishing. It is an initiative of cOAlition S, a consortium of 18 national and international research-funding organizations, with the support of the European Commission and the European Research Council (ERC). The SNSF supports Plan S, but «*is not in a position to add its signature to the plan at present*». The aim of the plan is to guarantee that all scientific publications funded by participating agencies are published in compliant OA journals or on compliant OA platforms after 1 January 2020. If there are any publication costs, these will be covered by the funders, which will set an upper limit for the costs.

«Green OA» remains as a hypothetical option to fulfil the requirements of Plan S. In reality, the condition that archived article versions must have a CC BY licence is not yet met by any subscription based journal, and the technical requirements expected of repositories are not easily achievable in the short term. This is certainly a pushback

for green OA. However, it is an ongoing discussion if free access to article versions in repositories after an embargo period of 12 months or more with no reuse rights should be called «Open Access» at all. *OA is more than just gratis access.*

Also, the «hybrid OA» publishing model as well as «mirror journals» are not compliant with Plan S. Hybrid OA publishing was meant as a transition from subscription-based journal publishing to OA. The last years, however, have shown that this transition does not happen, but hybrid OA merely provides an additional income stream for the academic publishing oligopoly. It has become the ugly norm and Plan S is aiming to change this.

Big Hybrid OA Deals

Although Plan S explicitly opposes the hybrid OA model, in other parts of Europe «Big Hybrid OA Deals» are regarded as the way towards an OA future. According to these «read and publish» or «publish and read» agreements, an institution pays for reading and can publish all its corresponding authors' articles as hybrid OA. *Dutch universities have negotiated such contracts with more than ten traditional publishers, including Elsevier, Springer Nature and ACS. In Germany, Project DEAL aims to conclude similar agreements for all journals from major academic publishers. Negotiations with Elsevier have failed and therefore more than 200 German universities have been without access to Elsevier's journals since July 2018. In January 2019, DEAL signed the first «publish and read» agreement with Wiley. Hybrid OA is also a major building block of the Swiss national OA strategy and action plan. An agreement with Springer Nature should be finalised in 2019 while negotiations with Wiley and Elsevier are scheduled to commence this year. Along with all Swiss universities Lib4RI has mandated the negotiation team.*

SNSF Open Access Regulations

The new SNSF OA regulations came into effect in 2018 and no longer included exceptions from the OA article requirement. Researchers are still able to fulfil the OA mandate by archiving the accepted article version in an institutional repository (e.g. DORA) or by publishing in an OA journal. If publishing in a pure OA journal requires the payment of a fee, the SNSF pays this fee independent of the research grant. Applications can be submitted via the OA platform (mySNF) at any time and funding of OA fees is extended beyond the duration of grants. Hybrid OA publishing fulfils the mandate but is not funded by the SNSF.

The «Hybrid OA Deals» are obviously a convenient way to get more articles published OA. But these deals also help legacy publishers embedding themselves and their high prices into the new OA landscape. At the same time, these deals put pure OA publishers like Copernicus or PLOS at a competitive disadvantage. It is therefore likely that this will further strengthen the market power of a few large publishers, and as the last decades have shown, this will inevitably lead to higher prices for academic publishing in the future.

In comparison, Plan S has much more disruptive potential for the academic publishing market. It explicitly does not favour legacy publishers which brought price increases of several hundred percent (above inflation rate) in the last decades. At the time of writing, however, only a minority of academic journals are compliant with the principles of Plan S, which leaves many researchers with a feeling of unease. It will be interesting to see if publishers adapt to these structural challenges or completely ignore Plan S.////jhb/

Product Changes 2019

E-JOURNALS, REFERENCE WORKS, E-BOOKS & DATABASES

After some distinct adaptations but also with cancellations in the last years we saw only minor changes in our portfolio this year.

- E-Journals
- **Brill**: We successfully negotiated a 1-year-trial to the complete *Brill E-Journals collection*. Brill is a well-known publisher for the humanities, but also has a collection of biology journals.
 - **Elsevier**: The journal *Structure* (Cell Press) was subscribed.
 - **ISPG**: After the «International Scholarly Publication Group» disappeared from business in 2018, we ensured access to the most used journals via direct licences:
 - all journals from the *International Water Association* (IWA)
 - the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine* and the *Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology* from the «Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging» (SNMMI)
 - **Mary Ann Liebert**: After our trial to three journal collections in 2017 we now can offer a year-long trial for all 90+ journals.
 - **Nature**: We licensed *Nature Sustainability* and *Nature Catalysis*, both launched in 2018.
 - **Oxford University Press**: The upgrade from the «Full Collection 2018» to the «Full Collection 2019» includes 17 new journals.
 - **Royal Society of Chemistry**: We added the «New Titles Package 2019» with the journals «Material Chemistry Frontiers» and «Sustainable Energy & Fuels» to our selection.
 - **Taylor and Francis**: Purchase of the archives of 15 journals within the «Pharmaceutical Science and Toxicology» collection.
 - **Wiley**: We expanded our backfiles collection by 26 journals, mainly from the subject areas chemistry and biology.

Reference Works

- **Elsevier**: Already in spring 2018, we purchased seven new reference works»: *Comprehensive Biomaterials II* (2nd ed.), *Comprehensive Geographic Information Systems*, *Comprehensive Remote Sensing*, *Encyclopedia of Ecology* (2nd ed.), *Encyclopedia of Modern Optics* (2nd ed.), *Encyclopedia of Sustainable Technologies*.
- **Wiley**: We purchased four new reference works»: *Bergey's Manual of Systematics of Archaea and Bacteria*, *Handbook of Clean Energy Systems*, *International Encyclopedia of Geography*, *Smart Grid Handbook*.

E-Books

- We updated our e-book collections from *ACS*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Elsevier*, *Hanser*, *IOP*, *IWA*, *McGraw-Hill's AccessEngineering*, *OECD*, *Oxford University Press*, *Royal Society of Chemistry*, *Springer*, *Taylor & Francis*, *Wageningen Academic Publishers*, *Wiley* and *World Scientific* with the newly published books in 2019.
- **Elsevier**: We purchased the backfiles of 15 *e-book-series*.
- **Safari**: After reducing our subscription to a custom collection of 300 titles in 2018 we now have again enlarged the collection to the complete selection of *Safari Tech Books* with more than 34,000 titles and unlimited concurrent use.

Databases

- We set up a year-long trial to the *Forestry Compendium* and the *Forest Science Database* from the «Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International» (CABI).
- We had to cancel «MathSciNet» due to low user interest over the past few years.

Feedback

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