

Department of the Built Environment
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cOAlition-S
Feedback Implementation Plan S

Subject
Voice of concern

Date
11 January 2019

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Our reference
BWK2019-1750679

L.S.

On behalf of the research programs of the Department of the Built Environment, we hereby express our concerns with regards to the implementation plans for Plan S.

We support the main goal of Plan S, i.e., to achieve a transition to Open Access availability for all publications from publicly funded research. We believe in the ultimate benefits for science and society as advocated by cOAlition-S. However, we feel obliged to voice our concerns with regards to the presented plans for the implementation of Plan S.

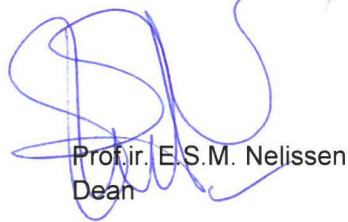
- Although we understand the need for disruptive measures, the current transition period is too short and risky. A longer period of adjustment will allow funders, academics and publishers proper time to jointly develop new and solid publication models, which enable open access to research results and guarantee solid mechanisms for high quality peer review and academic freedom at the same time.
- If the current plan is implemented, the disruption is too great and the freedom of choice comes at stake for scientists to publish in the journals they deem most relevant for their field of expertise and which guarantee the high standard of quality their research results deserve. The DOAJ list does demonstrably not provide enough publication venues for our disciplines, both in terms of quality and quantity, to disseminate our research output in a sustainable way. This is unacceptable from the viewpoint of academic freedom.
- Publication in established 'hybrid' journals is an effective way of opening access to scientific research. Radically blocking this option does not contribute to the goals of open access, but merely causes unnecessary and undesirable collateral damage.
- The support for Plan S is so far limited to a number of European countries. This will likely lead to excessive publication costs (or publication-suppression) for Plan-S funded researchers and poses a high risk for isolation of these countries from the rest of the scientific world. It may even lead to excellent academics not accepting positions at our universities, because of the restrictions that are imposed on them because of Plan S.

Yours sincerely, on behalf of the Department of the Built Environment.

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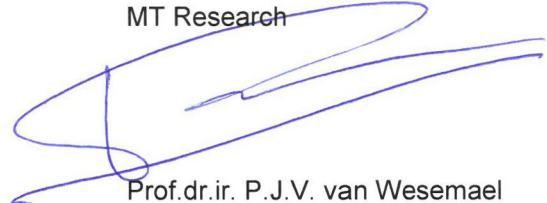
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Departmental Board



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