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Responding individually or on behalf of an organisation: On behalf of...

Organisation: The American Phytopathological Society

Country: United States of America

The journals of The American Phytopathological Society (APS) represent more than 100 years of plant pathology research supported by a large community of scientists led by volunteer publications boards and leaders and managed as a nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization. The Society's council and financial advisory committee are comprised of scientists who's guiding principles are for the advancement of our science, which directly impacts the world's food supply. Our society publishes 5 peer-reviewed journals (*Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease*, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*, *Plant health Progress*, and *Phytobiomes Journal*) of which one journal is fully open access while all other journals are green open access. Rigorous peer review conducted by our community sustains our society.

Revenues from our journals (mainly library subscriptions, page charges and Open Access APCs) sustains constant improvements to our journals and finances scientific initiatives which serve our 4,000-plus member scientists and the greater plant science and crop protection communities outside of APS. The current business model serves these communities efficiently and effectively. APS programs like the open access APS education center are free to all educators and students from kindergarten to college and would not be possible without the current journals business model we employ. Students prosper and become contributors to our science through the programs and support APS provides.

Plan S erodes our society's ability to serve our research community. Early on, our society embraced hybrid open access to allow our scientists (and their funders) to choose immediate access for all (at similar fees discussed for Plan S) as well as DORA and other fairness initiatives. We have also supported the emergence of gold open access journals. As a society publisher we are concerned that the Plan S mandates will cause most society journals to ultimately pursue partnerships with commercial publishers to the detriment of the scientific communities' societies serve well. Because of their size, commercial publishers will be outcompeting all non-profit publishers. We strongly believe that non-profit publishing models need to remain viable. The choices that authors now have will diminish as homogenous open access journals are created to maximize publishing profitability within the Plan S fee structure. Scientific communities with robust cultures that help advance science will be jeopardized by the loss of their journal oversight. We respectfully recommend that Plan S give latitude to nonprofit scientific societies to operate and be funded within the hybrid open access model that APS currently employs, into the future.