

Paris, 8 February 2019

## ADBU PLAN S STATEMENT

The French national association for university librarians and senior library staff (ADBU) fully supports the transition towards Open Access, which is carried by Coalition S through Plan S: the association welcomes with great interest the invitation to give a feedback about the guidelines.

The French academic libraries are committed to the development of Open Science in their institutions: librarians are working on a daily basis to raise awareness among researchers, to train and support them towards the road to Open Access. Drawing on this field expertise, ADBU is willing to contribute to the inputs about Plan S. As signatory to Jussieu Call for Open science and bibliodiversity (<https://jussieucall.org/jussieu-call/>), ADBU believes that the commitment of research funding bodies towards bibliodiversity is of the strongest importance if an inclusive transition to Open Science is to be achieved. Plan S must include Open Science players on a wide basis and not exclude proactive, committed and innovative stakeholders by imposing constraining requirements. In order to be applicable by every academic community, Plan S needs to:

- Be easy to implement by researchers themselves
- Set realistic and achievable goals for all the stakeholders
- Be advocated among the governance of higher education and research institutions.

ADBU identifies difficulties and needs for clarification on the following recommendations in particular.

### **Deposition of scholarly articles in Open Access Repositories**

- Regarding the technical recommendations, ADBU supports the proposals made by the Coalition of Open Access Repositories (COAR), based on the conclusions of the Next Generation Repositories report: (<https://www.coar-repositories.org/files/NGR-Final-Formatted-Report-cc.pdf>);
- Regardless of the dissemination terms of the journals in which they are published, the deposit of manuscripts accepted for publication in open access repositories should be

recommended as a good practice, which guarantees permanent archival and access and facilitates the monitoring of Open Access policies;

- The requirement of immediate deposit of publications, with no embargo, under a CC-BY license, presents several practical difficulties for a researcher who wishes to deposit in a repository to comply with Plan S:
  - Deferring the deposit for a few weeks would facilitate the retrieval of publishers' metadata through DOI;
  - ADBU agrees on the importance of the immediate release of publications in open access, but warns that stakeholders will need time to implement this recommendation. In order to ensure that submission in an open repository remains a viable option to comply with Plan S, it is important to allow time for negotiations with publishers on their green open access policies and for the definition of operational terms for researchers;
  - Regarding the publication under a CC-BY license, ADBU supports the French open science committee proposition, which suggests a gradual transition towards CC-BY license.

### **Open Access journals or Open Access platforms**

In line with the views of the Association of European Research Libraries (LIBER), ADBU recommends in particular to:

- Recognize the diversity of OA publishing models
- Establish a grace period for OA journals and platforms to comply to plan S requirements

### **Are there other mechanisms or requirements funders should consider to foster full and immediate Open Access of research outputs?**

- In line with the views of the French open science committee, ADBU recommends that research funders design and organize support for Open Science infrastructures, platforms and journals.
- The measurement of Plan S impact requires improving the tracking and the dissemination of data about subscription and publishing costs paid by institutions. The definition of operational and common mechanisms for monitoring and sharing these data should assist in facilitating the monitoring of Plan S effects on the overall cost of access to scientific publications.

Beyond the transition to open and immediate access to publications, ADBU also calls for collective and global action about the revolution of open science: taking the long-term perspective, advocacy for open science and comprehensive evolution of assessment systems should lead to more open research processes and wider dissemination of software and research data.