

The Royal Meteorological Society is the UK's Professional and Learned Society for weather and climate and its mission is to promote the understanding and application of meteorology for the benefit of all. The Society which will be 170 years old in April 2020, plays a key role as the custodian of both the science and the profession of meteorology in the UK and has an important role to play internationally as one of the world's largest meteorological Societies.

Scientific publishing is the Society's single largest activity and is a vital contributor to the mission and well-being of the organisation. Our programme publishes seven international peer reviewed journals including its founding publication, *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society*, which has been publishing research since 1871 and is one of the world's leading sources of original research in atmospheric sciences.

More than two thirds of the Societies revenue are generated through its journal publication programme, the remainder coming from memberships and to a lesser extent, from its annual conference. As a not-for-profit organisation, all revenues generated are turned into activities that support the scientific community. These include providing vocational qualifications and an accreditation framework to support meteorologists throughout their career; hosting 75+ special interest and national meetings a year for the meteorology and scientific community; active involvement in government, writing statements with other Societies and bodies and shaping policy; an active education programme supporting school teachers in the teaching of weather and climate in schools; and the Society is at the heart of the debate on climate change, playing a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large and enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face.

The Society is committed to providing long-term, sustainable access to high quality scientific research for everyone, whilst maintaining high value, trustworthy author and reader services which enhance scientific communication and progress. The Society aspires to offer authors a choice including two fully open access journals and five hybrid journals as part of its portfolio. We feel that this choice is key to our commitment to our community.

We have been listening to the debate around open access for some time and are proactive in our efforts to adhere to an open research environment. However, we do have serious concerns around the Plan S movement which we feel would be extremely harmful to the Society, its reputation with authors and our ability to support the community moving forward.

We have always wanted to provide our authors with choice both in terms of the subject matter of journals we offer, but also in how they choose to submit content and we are aware that many of our authors internationally still see APCs as a barrier to publication and would no longer be able to publish with us. This is particularly

concerning in that it could particularly affect high quality research coming out of low-income countries, research which is prolific in the field of meteorology right now.

By far the greatest concern to the Society is the potential effects on our revenues. The Society has a portfolio of journals that range in age and therefore in copy flow and profitability. Our youngest journals which are fully open access still generate very low revenues. Our two most established journals are under the hybrid model, and these represent the largest part of our publication revenue. We have carried out financial modelling around capping APCs and flipping these titles annually and both options would come at a considerable loss in revenue to the Society and would have a tremendous knock on effect to the Society, its ability to support other journal titles, and the activities and support we could provide to its community moving forward.

We are pleased to see that transformative agreements such as that with Wiley and Projekt Deal are considered compliant, but there are still huge questions about what this will mean after, as there are with other 'Read and Publish' deals currently in negotiation. And there is no clarity or financial security around what this is going to mean to us for institutions who are not in these transformative arrangements around the world, or after 2025 where compliance with Plan S via this route may no longer be acceptable.

As a charitable organisation this movement causes us a high level of concern and we are unclear how we should proceed in order to provide what is needed to support our community and how we survive as a Society if Plan S were to go ahead under the current suggestions.

We hope the voice of the Learned Society will be taken into consideration in further developments to this plan, especially as Societies in general, already face other serious business challenges including retaining and encouraging membership and delivering well attended annual conferences in an increasingly digital driven environment.