

Feedback for Guidance on the Implementation of Plan S

The Johns Hopkins Office of Scholarly Communication commends cOAlition S on their plan to disrupt the current scholarly communication landscape, to cap article processing charges (APC), and amend practices that foster inequitable access to information. We affirm that public access to publicly funded information is essential. Our group recommends a few considerations when implementing this plan.

First, support options other than gold open access (OA) for making manuscripts available, including green OA and zero-APC publishing. Follow Confederation of Open Access Repositories' (COAR) suggestions for repository standards and encourage FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable metadata) principles. Support and encourage the community to build, and institutions to subsidize, platforms and publishing models that do not charge authors APCs and still provide open access to peer-reviewed literature. Discourage current publisher practices that simply shift costs to new and unsustainable subscription models: big deals, non-disclosure agreements, read and publish agreements, inclusive access models, etc. Encourage archiving pre-prints and sharing and archiving data openly.

Next, consider the burden to society publishers who offer much value to the academic community and allow them time to transition. We agree that hybrid journals are unsustainable and lack a clear path forward to becoming fully OA, but support societies as they transition by allowing time to discover new business models that do not rely on high profit margins and APCs.

We agree that authors should retain copyright to their manuscripts, but allow them to choose licenses appropriate to their needs. CC-BY, CC-BY-ND, and others should be allowed under Plan S.

Encourage transparency in other aspects of the research enterprise and movements like open science, open data, and open infrastructure. This includes building and using open source and community-based infrastructure to support research dissemination. Platforms and journals should be encouraged to participate in open infrastructure like [ORCID](#), [CRediT](#), and [Initiative for Open Citations](#).

We applaud the fact that Plan S supports DORA principles, and we support a restructuring of the scholarly communication landscape, including making publications more open, encouraging

transparency when measuring scholarly impact, and ensuring tenure and promotion criteria are not based on one single metric.

Sincerely,

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