

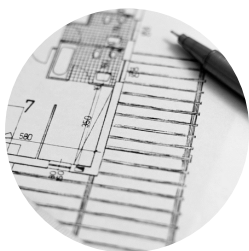
PLAN S FACT SHEET



OFFICE OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

PLAN S FACT SHEET

What is Plan S?



Plan S is an initiative launched by a group known as cOAlition S in September 2018. This consortia of European research funders are seeking to advance the uptake of Open Access and aim to make the results of the work they fund openly accessible upon publication with no embargo period.

Their full aim is that:

"After 1 January 2020 scientific publications on the results from research funded by public grants provided by national and European research councils and funding bodies, must be published in compliant Open Access Journals on on compliant Open Access Platforms".

What are the advantages?

Although the concept of open access to research has been around for well over a decade, progress towards adoption has been slow. Plan S argues that the main aim of research is to allow others to build on it to create new knowledge and that any type of paywall is a barrier to this. Although a traditional model involving paying fees for access worked when the majority of research was printed this is no longer acceptable in a world where many outputs are published online.



The Plan aims to help standardise the approach to making work open by offering guidelines on compliant platforms, caps on fees and robust sanctions for non-compliance. This will help to bring together the different groups working towards Open Access and offer them a more powerful voice. Funders signing up to the principles will also help advance the move towards responsible research as they advocate judging the quality of an output rather than where it is published.

PLAN S PRINCIPLES

It is important to remember that Plan S is a set of principles rather than a policy. Individual research funders may choose to implement these principles in different ways. The ten principles are explained below:



COPYRIGHT

Authors will keep the copyright in their work with no restrictions and should publish under an open license (preferably CC-BY). This means researchers will be allowed to reuse their own materials without seeking permission.



CRITERIA

Research funders will work to establish robust criteria which outline what makes a compliant Open Access journal or other platform. At the moment this is not always clear cut.



INCENTIVES

Where adequate Open Access journals or platforms do not already exist, funders will offer help and other incentives to set them up. Additional support will be provided as appropriate.



FEES

Open Access fees should be covered by funders and universities rather than researchers themselves (where appropriate). The Plan explicitly states that not having the money to pay fees should not be a barrier to open publication.



STANDARDISATION

Open Access publication fees should be standardised and capped across Europe to avoid confusion.



ALIGNMENT

Universities, research institutions and libraries will work to align their policies around Open Access both to streamline the process and to ensure transparency for researchers.



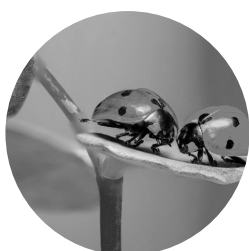
MONOGRAPHS

Although the Plan will apply to all types of research output it recognises that dealing with open books is complex and that it may take longer than the stated deadline to achieve fully Open Access monographs.



REPOSITORIES

Open Access repositories and archives offer a commitment to long-term preservation to research outputs and the Plan acknowledges how important this is to making work accessible.



HYBRID

Hybrid journals – those which charge a fee to make selected articles openly available whilst charging a subscription for the rest – will not be compliant with Plan S.



COMPLIANCE

The members of cOAlition S will monitor compliance with the principles and there will be sanctions for those who fail to comply.