



# PUBLISHING MODELS IN THE ERA OF PLAN S



**Uta Grothkopf, Silvia Meakins, Nathalia Escarlata & Leslie Saldías**  
Library and Information Centre, European Southern Observatory (ESO)

Poster at LISA IX | Online meeting | June 2021



# Publishing Models in the Era of Plan S

Uta Grothkopf, Silvia Meakins, Nathalia Escarlate & Leslie Saldías

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## Abstract

Plan S is an initiative for immediate Open Access publishing, launched in 2018 by the cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funders. Under Plan S, publication in hybrid journals is not funded. Thanks to the regulations defined by Plan S, OA publishing gained unprecedented discussion and momentum as it forced many science publishers to rethink their publishing models.

This poster presents a schematic overview of the most common publication business models currently used in science publishing, with a focus on Gold and Diamond OA models as well as Transformative Agreements. For each model, the main characteristics (Who pays? Who can read? Who can publish?) are listed, along with the model's Plan S compliance and the assumed cost evolution. Questions are raised regarding the expected benefits, risks and sustainability. The authors conclude that Subscribe to Open (S2O), a library-supported Diamond Open Access publishing model, has compelling advantages and should receive more attention from the librarians' community. The poster is based on the presentation slide "Publication Business Models", DOI [10.18727/docs/10](https://doi.org/10.18727/docs/10), CC-BY 4.0.

### Closed + Self Archiving using Rights Retention:

Results in two versions of the same manuscript.

### Gold OA with APCs:

Savings through APCs? New infrastructure needed. Ethical questions to be answered (distribution of available funds). Disruptive for authors.

### Gold OA, overlay journals:

Danger of losing publishers' expertise. Based on grants & volunteer effort; is it sustainable?

### Transformative agreements:

Yet another dependency (APCs instead of subscription prices). Will we see actual savings? Will they "cement" APCs for OA? How about small, specialised libraries for whom benefits of access to large portfolio is often only marginal?

### Diamond OA, Subscribe to Open (S2O):

Any immediate savings? Problem of "free riders"

### Diamond OA, SCOAP3:

Very complex model. Only specific articles are OA

## Useful links

- [Open Access](#) (Wikipedia)
- [Plan S / cOAlition S](#)
- [Subscribe to Open \(S2O\) Community of Practice](#)
- [Plan S Journal Checker tool](#)

### PUBLICATION BUSINESS MODELS

Status	Model	Who pays?	How much?	Who can read?	Who can publish?	Plan S compliance?	Costs?
Closed + Self Archiving using Rights Retention	Subscription (incl. hybrid journals)	Libraries	Too much	Scientists at subscribing institutions	Everyone	No	↑
	Subscription + Self-Archiving using Rights Retention (e.g., AAAS Science Magazine)	Libraries	Too much	Everyone (Author Accepted Manuscript, AAM)	Everyone	Yes	↑ Cost of journal subscription
Gold OA (APCs)	Commercial and society publishers	Authors	Depends on publisher	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	↔
	Overlay journals e.g., The Open Journal of Astrophysics	Authors	Very little	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	↔
Transformative Agreements (incl. hybrid journals)	Read and Publish (RAP) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	↔
	Publish-and-Read (PAR) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Calculated on estimated publishing volume	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	↔
Diamond OA (Library support)	Subscribe to Open (S2O) e.g., Annual Review	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	→
	SCOAP3 (CERN-led HEP consortium)	Libraries, Sponsoring HEP organisations	Negotiations with publishers	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	→

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Uta Grothkopf, ESO Library and Information Centre  
April 2021

\* The estimated cost evolution reflects the personal opinion of the author.

## Advantages of Subscribe to Open (S2O)

- Collaborative, predictable, transparent model  
Achieves **universal OA** (all authors, all articles)
- Can be **implemented fast**, is **long-lasting (sustainable)**
- Uses **existing infrastructure** (budget handling, licensing, communication scientists/publishers, advice on recent developments in scholarly communication, metrics, etc.)
- Reflects **independence** of small libraries, corresponds to information needs of **specialised research community**
- **High acceptance** expected among astronomers (Diamond OA)

# MOTIVATION









- **Plan S:** initiative for immediate OA, launched by cOAlition S consortium
- **Unprecedented momentum for OA**, also b/c of **exclusion** of funding for papers in **hybrid journals**
- Science publishers have to **rethink their business models**
- **S2O has compelling advantages** and should receive more attention from the librarians' community.
- Poster presents **schematic overview** of most common publishing business models currently used in science publishing
- Based on "Publication Business Models" by Uta Grothkopf, DOI [10.18727/docs/10](https://doi.org/10.18727/docs/10) CC-BY 4.0



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Gold OA (APCs)	Commercial and society publishers	Authors	Depends on publisher	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	
	Overlay journals e.g., <i>The Open Journal of Astrophysics</i>	Authors	Very little	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	
Transformative Agreements (max. 3 yrs.)	Read-and-Publish (RAP) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
	Publish-and-Read (PAR) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Calculated on estimated publishing volume	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
Diamond OA (Library support)	Subscribe to Open (S2O) e.g., <i>Annual Reviews</i>	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	
	SCOAP3 (CERN-led HEP consortium)	Libraries, Sponsoring HEP organisations	Negotiations with publishers	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	

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