

The Royal Society of Biology Research Dissemination Committee **Research Communication Newsletter**

December 2018

Publication policy and debate

[Funders flesh out details of Europe's bold open-access plan](#)

'Plan S' will allow researchers to publish in hybrid journals under certain conditions until a 2023 review.

[Guidance on the Implementation of Plan S](#)

Members of cOAlition S have read with interest the many comments made on Plan S. After discussion and consideration, the coalition has approved the implementation guidance on making full and immediate Open Access a reality. The guidance is now open for public feedback.
Closes 1 February 2019.

[Plan S: A Mandate for Gold OA with Lots of Strings Attached](#)

Over the past several weeks, many in the scholarly publishing world have been reacting to the open access (OA) 10 principles outlined by cOAlition S — a plan now referred to as "Plan S".

[Researchers sign petition backing plans to end paywalls](#)

Online letter argues that Plan S — which dictates that research papers be immediately free to read — will not impinge on academic freedom, as some critics claim.

[The Scientific Community Supports Funders Mandating Open Access, Adds Balance to the Discussion of the Plan S](#)

More than 1,800 researchers have endorsed the plan by science funding bodies to transition to Open Access their models of disbursing funds to researchers, as the European Plan S continues to garner international backing, such as from China.

[Plan S: Impact on Society Publishers](#)

[Helping Learned Societies Explore Plan S-compliant Business Models](#)

cOAlition S members, Wellcome and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), in partnership with and the Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP), are seeking to engage the services of a consultant to explore a range of potential strategies and business models through which learned societies could adapt and thrive under Plan S.

[Why Society and Not-For-Profit Journals Are Worth Preserving: Better Economic and Continuing Value for the Community](#)

[Discipline-specific open access publishing practices and barriers to change: an evidence-based review](#)

[Conflicts with Large Journal Publishers Can Slow Down University Libraries' Efforts to Transition to Open Access Models](#)

[Three propositions to help to cultivate a culture of care and broad-mindedness in academic publishing](#)

[Disseminating your research does carry risks and can leave you vulnerable, but it is vital to developing the courage to use your voice](#)

[All Things Coko: A Step Towards a True Shared Infrastructure for Scholarly Communication?](#)

The first week of December is an important week in the scholarly publishing calendar in the UK. As well as STM Week (#STMWeek), which includes a series of linked all-day seminars along with a committee and working group meetings, there are multiple community, vendor and industry events. It's a good opportunity to look back on the year and take stock.

[Oh, What A Tangled Web! Citation Network Underscores Editorial Conflicts of Interest](#)

The separation of powers is as important in academic publishing as it is in government.

[Academic publishing empires need to go](#)

[The Case For and Against Double-blind Reviews](#)

[BMC continues to transform peer review, cutting out waste and speeding up the process](#)

BMC, the first publisher to openly post named peer reviewer reports alongside articles, is announcing the launch of a formal portable peer review policy on BMC Biology. The policy aims to speed up the peer review process and decrease waste in publishing.

[The experiences of patient and public peer reviewers revealed](#)

Patient and public involvement in clinical research is attracting increased attention, not least because it has the potential to increase the quality and value of research. The BMJ and Research Involvement and Engagement (RIE) journals have adopted innovative strategies aimed at involving patients and the public in their publishing models.

International publishing

[China backs bold plan to tear down journal paywalls](#)

Officials pledge support for European-led 'Plan S' to make research papers immediately free to read — but it's unclear whether China will adopt all the plan's policies.

[Union group targets Elsevier in open-access campaign](#)

An international association of education unions is asking its members to consider campaigning against Elsevier, over what it says is the publisher's attempt to stifle open access.

Metrics

[Making Magic Happen: Implementing and Contributing Data Citations in Support of Today's Scholarship](#)

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