Plan S

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.

“After 1 January 2021 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 or on compliant Open Access Platforms.”

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?

The concept of open access has been around for a decade and the Swansea University Open Access Policy since 2015; however, progress towards wide 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 most research was in
Plan S aims to help standardise the approach to making work open by offering guidelines on **compliant platforms**, **caps on fees** and **sanctions for non-compliance**. This will help to bring together the different groups working towards Open Access and give them a powerful voice. Funders signing up to the principles will also help to advance the move towards **responsible research**.

**PRINCIPLES OF PLAN S**

It is vital to remember that Plan S is a set of principles rather than a policy. Individual researchers may choose to implement these principles in different ways.

**Consultation on the draft framework is open until 6th January 2020 and a final version of Plan S will be available by the end of March 2020.**

**THE PRINCIPLES ARE EXPLAINED BELOW:**

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

**Criteria**
Research funders will work to establish robust criteria to demonstrate what makes a compliant Open Access journal or platform.
Incentives
Where adequate Open access journals or platforms do not already exist, the funders will provide incentives to set them up. Additional support will be provided if appropriate.

Fees
Open Access publication fees should be covered by the funders or universities, not by individual researchers; it is acknowledged that all scientists should be able to publish their work Open Access even if their institutions have limited means. 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.

Alignment
Universities, research organisations, and libraries will work to align their policies and strategies around Open Access, notably to ensure transparency and streamline processes.

Monographs
The principles shall apply to all types of scholarly publications, but it is recognised that the timeline to achieve Open Access for monographs and books may be longer than 1 January 2021.

Repositories
Open Access repositories and archives offer a commitment to long-term preservation of research outputs and Plan S acknowledges how important they are for making work accessible.

Hybrid
The hybrid journal model of publishing where a fee is charged to make selected articles openly available and a subscription is paid for the rest, is not compliant with the principles. Plan S endorse a number of
strategies to encourage subscription publishers to transition to Open Access. These approaches are referred to as ‘transformative arrangements’ and include transformative agreements, model agreements and transformative journals.

**Compliance**
The members of cOAlition S and the funders will monitor compliance.

**Further Information**
https://www.coalition-s.org/why-plan-s/
https://www.coalition-s.org/addendum-to-the-coalition-s-guidance-on-the-implementation-of-plan-s/

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Version: December 2019