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**Position of the Natural Science Foundation of China**  
**on Further Promotion of Open Access for**  
**Research Papers from Publicly Funded Research Projects**

The scientific research results of publicly funded research projects are the common goods and valuable assets of the society. Open access to these resources is an important foundation for the society to realize its innovative, inclusive, smart, and sustainable development. And open access is also an inevitability of scholarly communication in a digitally networked environment.

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) has long been committed to promote open access of scientific research results from publicly funded research projects, because this is in the interest of China, in the interests of the scientific and technological community, and in line with the purposes and interests of public funding agencies. In 2004, NSFC signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities; in 2013, NSFC signed the Open Access Action Plan of the Global Research Council; and in May 2014, NSFC formally issued its Open Access Policy on Research Papers from Publicly Funded Projects, mandating that funded projects must deposit their papers published in academic journals into repositories and be made open access no later than 12 months after publication; in 2015, NSFC set up its Basic Research Repository (BRR) for its funded projects to deposit their papers into it, and through the repository the research papers become open to the whole society

In order to further promote open access to research results from publicly funded projects, we support the joint efforts of national and international science and technology funding agencies and the scientific communities to overcome the difficulty caused by serious and inadequate knowledge accessibility of the whole society. Therefore, we support the request of the OA2020 initiative and Plan S to transform, as soon as possible, research papers from publicly funded projects into immediate open

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access after publication, and we support a wide range of flexible and inclusive measures to achieve this goal.

We recognize that, through investment in research, funding for research personnel, and support for libraries subscriptions, the society has already paid for content production, peer review, and content distribution of scholarly journals. And, the more one country produces in terms of research papers, the more it contributes to publishing and helps the development of journals. Therefore, we support the libraries of funded organizations to seek large-scale transformation of subscription journals to open access journals, where papers by their corresponding authors in the journals they subscribe should be made immediately open access when published and free of any APC charge. We warn against charging APCs directly to researchers. We continue to support development of open repositories while requiring that they reduce the open access embargo until the papers deposited can be open access immediately.

We are willing to cooperate with national and international funding agencies and support Chinese researchers to participate in international open access efforts, to play a more active and constructive role in promoting open access, upholding the quality of scholarly journals, ensuring the affordability and transparency of open publishing APC, and facilitating the innovative development of scholarly communications.

We demand that publishers should not increase their subscription prices on the grounds of the transformation from subscription journals to open access publishing. We require that standard and transparent mechanisms are set up with caps on APCs when we allow the funded projects to use their grants for publishing in open access journals. We support the libraries of the funded organizations to build collaborative negotiation mechanisms to jointly guide the market for the benefits of the society and the healthy development of the open publishing.