
NSL/CAS Position on Further Promotion of Open Access for Research Papers from Publicly Funded Research Projects

One of the aims of scientific research is to disseminate the results of scientific research to the whole society, making it a powerful tool for the innovation and development of the whole society by supporting innovation-driven development strategy. Therefore, open access to the published papers from publicly funded research projects is not only the inevitable trend of scholarly communications in the age of digital research, but also the inherent task of doing research and the responsibility of research institutions.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has long been active in promotion of open access of scientific research results from publicly funded research projects. In December 2003, Professor Yongxiang Lu, then the president of CAS, became the first Chinese researcher to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities. In 2004, CAS formally signed the Berlin Declaration. Since 2009, CAS started development of institutional repositories in its 100+ institutes where research results have been deposited and distributed via open access. In 2013, CAS signed the Open Access Action Plan of the Global Research Council. In May 2014, CAS formally issued its Open Access Policy on Research Papers from Publicly Funded Projects, mandating that its researchers receiving public funding must deposit their papers published in academic journals into repositories and are made open access not later than 12 months after publication, while also supporting its researchers to publish in open access journals with appropriate quality control and affordable APC pricing. In 2017, CAS Library became the first Chinese organization to sign the Expression of Interest for OA2020 Initiative.

In order to further promote open access to research results from publicly funded projects, and overcome the difficulty caused by serious and inadequate knowledge accessibility of the whole society, we support the efforts of the OA2020 initiative and

Plan S to transform, as soon as possible, research papers from publicly funded projects into immediate open 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, 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 our libraries to actively seek large-scale transformation of subscription journals to open access journals, where papers by our corresponding authors in the journals the libraries 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 work with international research organizations and researchers, to further promote open access, uphold the quality of scholarly journals, ensure the affordability and transparency of open publishing APC, and encourage 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 our libraries to build collaborative negotiation mechanisms to jointly guide the market for the benefits of the society and the healthy development of the open publishing.