National Science and Technology Library, Ministry of Science and Technology

Position on Further Promotion of Open Access for Research Papers

from Publicly Funded Research Projects

Scientific research is the key to innovation-driven development. Open access to published papers from publicly funded research projects is not only the inevitable trend of distribution of scientific information in the era of digital information networks, but also the inherent road for full realization of return on investment for public funding in research and fulfill its social purpose.

The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) strikes to promote open access of scientific research results from publicly funded research projects. In 2014, the National Science and Technology Library (NSTL), supported and overseen by MoST, participated on behalf of Chin in the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in High Energy Physics, to enable the transition of high quality articles in the field to open access. In 2015, MoST opened its Public Sharing Platform for Scientific Research Reports to support open access to information on research projects it funded. In 2018, State Council issued a special directive to promote public sharing of research data, and MoST, joined by the Ministry of Finance, issued the Administrative Measures for Public Sharing Platforms of National Scientific Resources, to further promote the open sharing of publicly funded scientific resources. In 2017, NSTL signed the Expression of Interest for OA2020 Initiative to seek for immediate open access of published papers from publicly funded research projects, and has organized research on and advocacy of OA2020 Initiative.

In order to further promote open access to research results from publicly funded projects, and to overcome the difficulty caused by serious and inadequate knowledge accessibility by the society, 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 access after publication, and we support a wide range of flexible and inclusive measures to achieve this goal.

We recognize the urgent need for concrete actions to facilitate open access. It is clear that, through investment in research, for research personnel, and support for libraries subscriptions, government and 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 libraries of research and educational organizations to actively seek large-scale transformation of their subscription journals to open access journals, where papers by their respective members as 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 encourage research and educational organizations and their researchers to work with their international partners, 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 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.

We support continuous efforts with stronger conformance requirement for Green OA policies. The PI of a publicly funded project shall ensure that the project complies with the open access policies of the funder and the institute, shall deposit the project papers when they are published into the IR of their respective institutes, and shall report all the IR URLs of the project papers when the project closes. We encourage that research and educational organizations include the conformance review of open access policy into the project assessment process.