



No deal!

Sweden cancelled agreement with Elsevier to stand up for Open Science

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Outline

- **Background and context**
- **Some facts on usage and costs**
- **Methodology**
- **Some results...**
- **...and some conclusions**



Swedish context and background



- LIBER-2019-Keynote
Astrid Söderberg Widding [Stockholm University]:
"In Transition to Open Science – A Perspective from a President's Point of View" <https://youtu.be/vxFuOjV7wD0>

- LIBER-2019-Session
Lisa Olsson [National Library of Sweden]:
"Consequences of Sweden Cancelling Elsevier"
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3259809>





National transformative Read & Publish agreements

- **Springer Compact**
- **Springer Nature Fully OA**
- **Taylor & Francis**
- **Institute of Physics – IoP**
- **De Gruyter**
- **Royal Society of Chemistry**
- **Cambridge University Press**
- **Oxford University Press**
- **American Institute of Physics - AIP**
- **SCOAP3**



New national agreements from 2020

- Elsevier
- Wiley
- Sage
- ACS – American Chemical Society



Local agreements & ongoing negotiations

- IEEE (not decided – prepaid APC:s)
- IWA – International Water Association (from 2020)
- ECS – Electrochemical Society (since feb 2019)
- MDPI (OA publisher) - (since sep 2019)
- Scientific.net – TransTech Publications
- Portland Press – Biochemical Journal (and others)
- Other publishers we cover as single items – or investigate possible deals
- **A very large share of KTH research output (articles) will be Open Access**



Benefits of national (& local) OA-agreements

- **Lessen the administration for researchers**
- **More transparent & controlled financial flows**
- **Avoid double dipping**
- **List price APC = expensive for the institutions**
- **Hybrid publishing in a transitional stage (plan S)**

- **And of course the apparent benefit of open research**



Agreement with Elsevier

The agreement with Elsevier was cancelled from June 30th 2018 as the publisher were unable to meet the demands of the Bibsam Consortium.

The Steering Committee of the Bibsam Consortium has set up an evaluation group in order to analyse the consequences of the Elsevier cancellation. A separate agreement for 2018–2020 is in place for the databases Compendex, Reaxys and Scopus.

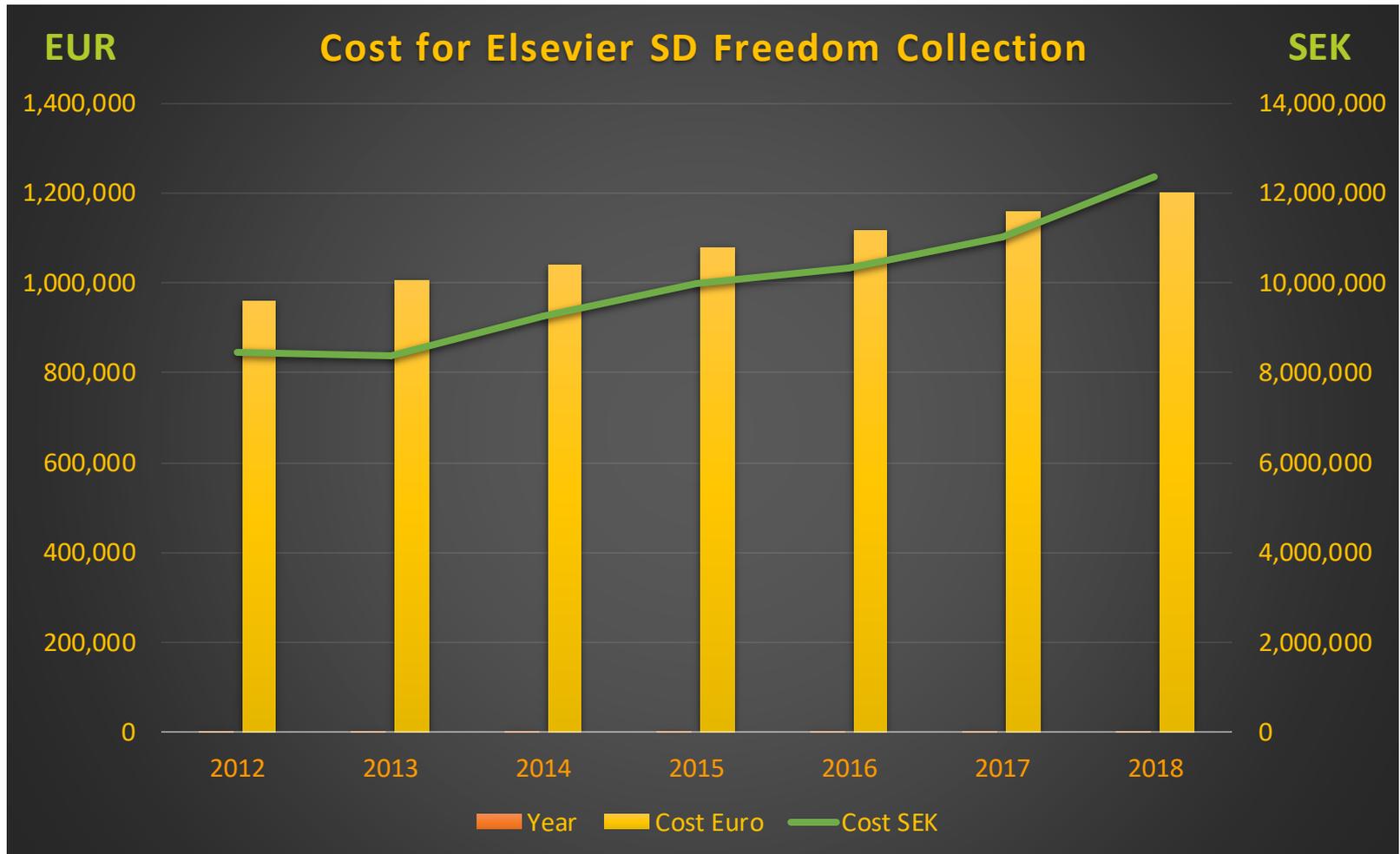
 [Directive for the evaluation of Elsevier cancellation \(pdf\)](#)

Q&A about the cancellation

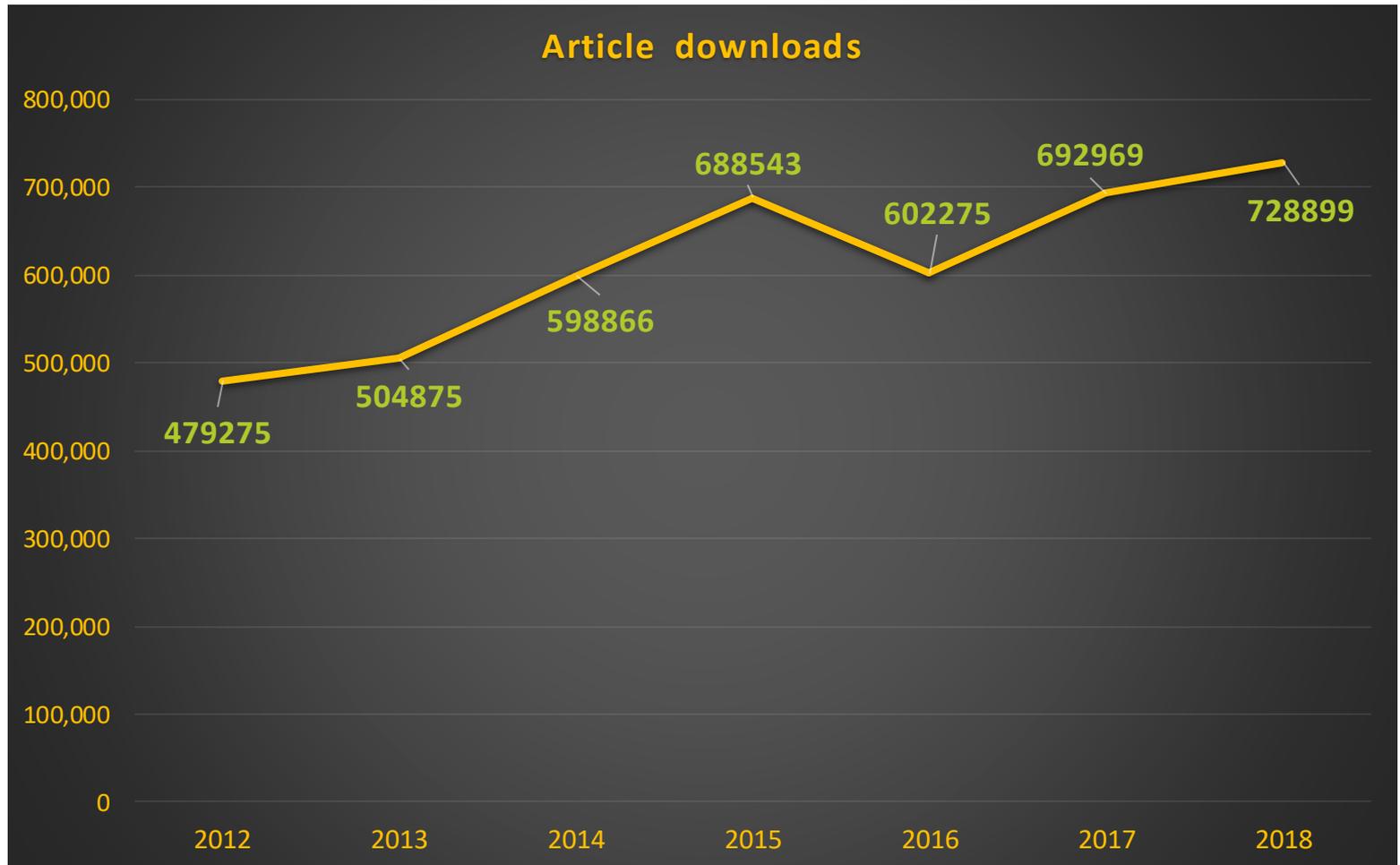
Why was the agreement not renewed?

The agreement with Elsevier was cancelled from June 30th 2018 as the publisher were unable to meet the demands of the Bibsam Consortium:

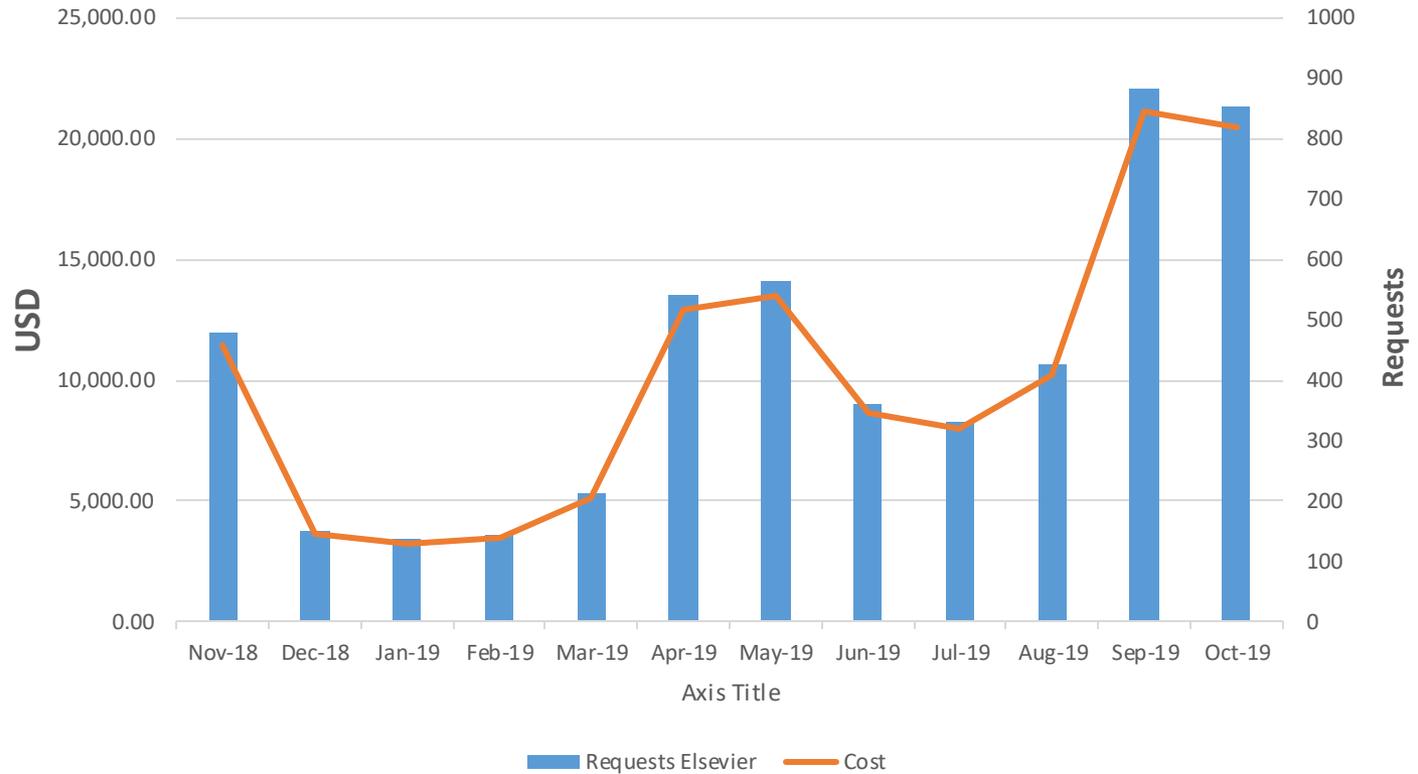
- immediate open access to all articles published in Elsevier's journals by researchers affiliated to one of the consortium's participating organisations
- reading access to Elsevier's 1 900 journals for participating organisations
- a sustainable price model which makes a transition to open access possible



Roughly 1/3 of KTH Library media budget



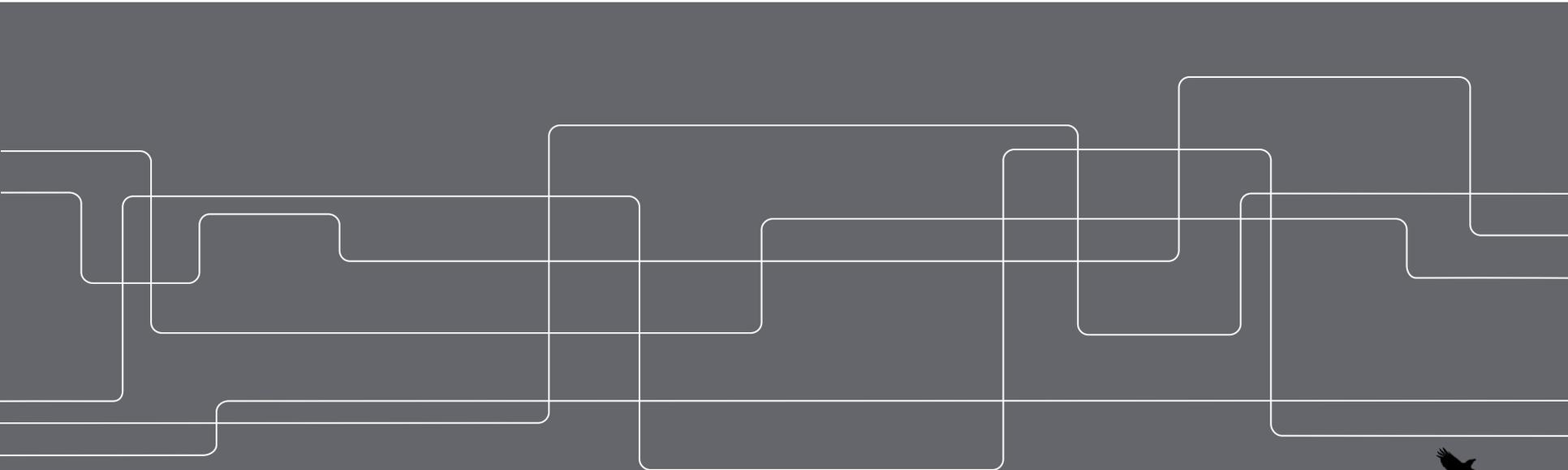
Requests and costs Elsevier Get it Now



- Total number of articles since cancellation: 6044
- Total cost: USD 145 056



We have a deal!





New transformative agreement with Elsevier enables unlimited open access to Swedish research

Pressmeddelande • Nov 22, 2019 14:24 CET



Dela



Ladda ned

Ladda ned som
PDF

The Bibsam Consortium is signing a Read & Publish agreement with the scientific publisher Elsevier. This means that Swedish researchers will have access to the publisher's 2000 journals once more. In addition, all Swedish research articles will be published open access.

This is an important step in the transition to open science. I am also pleased with the support and understanding we received from the research community, while they did not have access to the latest research articles from Elsevier”, says Astrid Söderbergh Widding

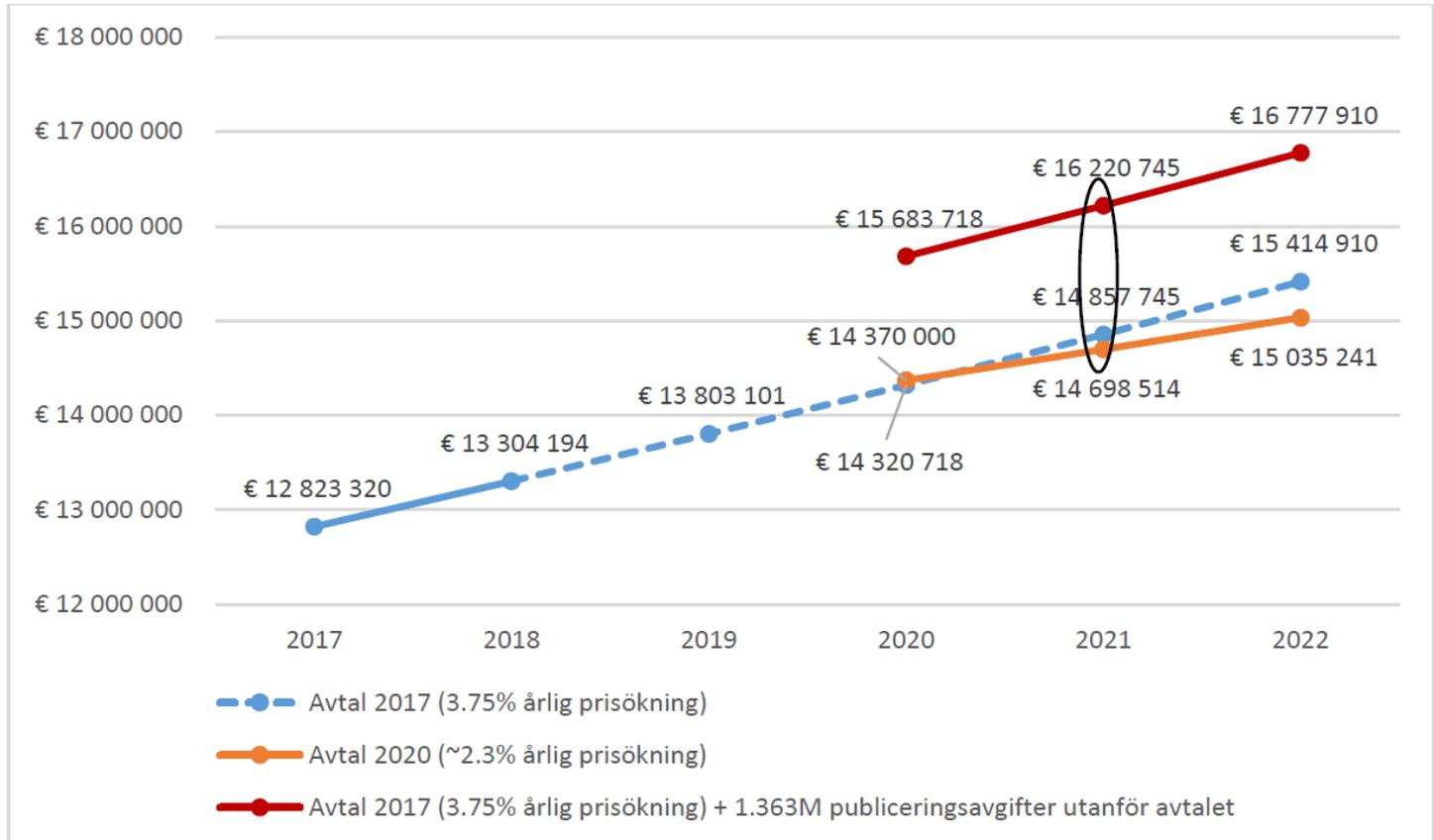


Costs for licenses and publishing w Elsevier 2018-2019 (sep)

Year	License cost	Publishing KTH	No of articles	Immediate OA (approx)
2018	6 174 000 SEK (50%)	1 118 460 SEK	810	99
2019	12 348 000 SEK (in theory)	1 425 455 SEK	588 (data until Sep)	102
2020	13 812 401 SEK	-	900?	900!

Note! "Publishing KTH" only covers a certain amount of costs for OA

The diagram shows the savings of the new agreement (orange line) compared to a read-only deal (blue line) and also compared to a read-only including the costs for APC:s paid outside an agreement by the institutions. (red line)





Method: Interviews

- Identified approx. 916 KTH-researchers who made article requests 2018/08 – 2019/03
- E-mail asking for a 30-minute interview
- Selected respondents by "convenience sampling"
- Performed 31 interviews ("fairly unstructured") April 29 – June 4
- Interviews done F2F or web (Zoom) + four cases via email
- All interviews recorded (w/ consent), manual transcription



Three respondent groups

- **10 Juniors (MSc & PhD-candidates, incl. industry)**
- **13 Middles (Post-docs, Ass. Professors, "researchers")**
- **8 Seniors (Professors: tenured/full/senior/"retired")**



Stuck in a paywall?

- **1 time:** few respondents
- **10 times:** most respondents
- **100 times:** some respondents (from Chemistry & Life sciences)

“This is a [big] problem”

– Seniors #19, #21, #25, #26, some Middles and Juniors.



Alternative routes to access

Get-it-Now:

“Wait one hour is ok, wait one day is not ok.” – *most respondents*

Asking author/colleagues/Research Gate:

Mixed comments, but works ok

Sci-Hub: Rarely used

Browser plug-ins/OA-versions/preprints:

Rarely used



Elsevier is dominant, but alternatives exist in some fields.”

”We may have to choose between publishing OA and letting our PhD student go to a conference.”

Choice of publication venue comes first – publication, reading and citations!
Economy, OA, publishers, licenses come second or third.

”Citations are more important than journals, so we have alternative channels that are not Elsevier.”

”We choose any/the cheaper option [than Gold OA] when we can and if needed, since we do not need to get citations fast.”

”Tight budget without publishing costs covered means changes in publication practice.”

”I will be going to industry after graduation, so I do not care about where I publish.”

”One paper costs one million SEK.”
[100,000 €]

“Science without publication paywalls”

Plan S : Strong principles

- ⦿ **No** publication should be locked behind a **paywall**
- ⦿ OA must be immediate, *i.e.* **no embargo periods**
- ⦿ Publication under an **open license**; no transfer/licensing of copyright
- ⦿ **Transparency** about pricing and contracts
- ⦿ **No hybrid** model of publication, except as a transitional arrangement with a clearly defined endpoint



Keynote at Researcher to Reader 2019, London , UK
Plan S and European Research
Dr Marc Schiltz

– President at Science Europe
– Secretary General & Executive Head at the Luxembourg National Research Fund

Plan S: Most respondents agreed with
(most) principles stated

“This looks
like the ideal
situation.”

“Research should
be free for
everyone to read.”

“This looks
utopian.”

But: too short time frame for Plan S –
“What about the hybrid journals?”



"Many [Gold] OA journals are bad."

"We try to not care about regulations concerning OA."

"OA is not a big thing. Reading everything is the most important thing."

"The system for promotions (the impact hysteria) go against the movement for OA."

"OA is good for industry [collaborations]."

"OA is good for citations."

"OA is good for re-using figures."



Working for Elsevier?

- **As a reviewer:** No change in attitude after cancellation.
- **As an editor:** Few respondents worked as editors
- **As an author:** Some respondents have given it a thought:

“I have actually changed publication venues. Nature and Springer work also. And when I can get relieved of the invoice also – that is nice!” – Middle #18

- “Science is an international enterprise, so initiatives should be an international effort [for change]. One country alone cannot say to its scientists: ‘Do not publish with E!’” – Middle #23



Information and communication

- **“I think it is fantastic that you take the initiative to investigate this question and want to talk to us about our experiences.” – Junior #27**
- **“This decision to cancel came from nowhere. [---] It is still the case that we do not choose publication venue according to some regulation or plan. I cannot think that our choice of publication channel will be affected at the moment.” – Senior #26**
- **“You should make hard negotiations with Elsevier.” – Middle #23**
- **“It is stupid to pay twice. [---] I would never pay to Elsevier, because there are alternatives with better review process.” – Senior #21**
- **“We have to go all the way, not only negotiate deals. We have to stop participating in the current model completely. As long as my professors only ask for my publications, they will not understand if I ‘take one bullet for the team!’” – Middle #7**



Main takeaways

- That the cancellation has created a big problem.
- That we have saved some (a lot of) money by not subscribing to E.
- That we can give very good service with the money saved by providing Get-it-now and negotiated transformative deals for OA publishing with other publishers.
- That top-class researchers at KTH have limited insights into the Bibsam consortium's (and the Coalition S') arguments for cancellation and the aggregated economics on national level.



Additional lessons learned

- Do not be afraid to go and talk to researchers, even if it concerns a “big” problem.
- Allocate time for interviews wisely.
- Be prepared with data and statistics, if you talk to quantitative researchers.
- Behave like you are interested in their research (special tips can be given outside the talk 😊).
- Make sure to have at least one Unique Selling Point in order to make them happy.



Thank you!

Questions?

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