

SELL

Southern European Libraries Link (SELL)

Statement

Meeting in Thessaloniki on May, 7th – 8th 2018 for the Southern European Libraries Link (SELL) 18th conference, consortia from Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Israel, members of the SELL group, reiterate their full support to open access and their commitment to speed up the transition.

Free and easy access to research results is a globally shared priority and SELL consortia are willing to contribute actively in creating a more effective scholarly communication system. Sharing the analysis that “there is currently enough money in the (publishing) system” and that the money spent on subscriptions is now to be considered as an investment to support open access, SELL consortia agree on the following principles:

1. Journal subscription current spending must be used to fund the transition to open access at no cost increase, because we invested already enough money in the system
2. All journal subscription agreements with scientific publishers should include an open access component, based on green road, gold road, or both – at no extra cost
3. When reaching such agreements reveals not to be possible, standard subscription agreements not including any open access component should be concluded at a reduced cost. This cost reduction will thus generate savings available to be invested in open access, alternative publishing roads or alternative publishers.
4. Immediate open access should be the norm. As a first step towards full and immediate open access, we could temporarily and transitionally accept a delayed open access, in any case no longer than 6 months after publication (12 months in Humanities).
5. Science publications and research results being a part of the world heritage of mankind, the long-term preservation of research output is a crucial issue; public institutions and libraries have a responsibility for long-term preservation of research publications. Consequently, all agreements with publishers must include archival rights for all the

subscribed content and long-term preservation with a local hosting option. Archival and local hosting rights must be granted by the publisher at no extra cost, as a standard component of any subscription or “publish and read” deal.

6. Cost transparency being a key-issue, because science information publishing is funded by public money, we are willing to make public our data concerning science information subscription and publishing costs; we highlight the interest of the European University Association (EUA) *Big Deals survey* and encourage EUA to make public the aggregated data concerning Europe science information expenditure.

We stress the necessity of a reinforced European collaboration aimed at making all national strategies converge at European level; only a shared European approach is likely to speed up the transition towards open access.

Thessaloniki,
May, 8th 2018
Finalized June, 5th 2018

The Southern European Library Link