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Study on Read & Publish Agreements

20 February 2019
Background

• Builds on discussions in EUA Expert Groups on Open Science and High-Level Group on Big Deals

• Follows EUA’s work on Big Deals and the EUA paper on transparency and competition in the large publishing market sent to DG Competition

• Expected to provide information for negotiators in consortia dealing with scholarly resources
Rationale

Possible benefits of “read and publish” deals:
• administrative efficiency and convenience for universities
• their potential to act as a transition vehicle toward full Open Access
• lower absolute cost compared with some other models
• complement to the push by ‘Plan S’ on Open Access

However

No systematic review of the features of a market based on such agreements should they become ubiquitous
Objectives

- To create a set of scenarios that describe how the scholarly publication system may be affected if read and publish agreements become widespread.
- To analyse most desirable features of agreements between university consortia and/or funders and publishers that
  - offer the best value for money,
  - avoid unintended consequences and
  - provide the least risk with respect to academic research and to the taxpayer.
Outputs

A. Economic market models illustrating the more likely trajectories for journals if “read and publish” deals become common, with dependencies and degrees of confidence in those models

B. A PESTLE (*) analysis relating to the journals market and the transition to OA

C. A set of at least four scenarios

D. A validated SWOT (*) analysis of each scenario

E. A set of recommendations on how to ensure that the objectives of R&P agreements are realised and the costs and risks of both identified in ways that enable them to be monitored, and minimised.

(*) PESTLE: Political; Economic; Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental. SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats.
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Issues to be addressed (indicative)

b) Short, medium- and long-term cost implications of a R&P based market
c) Implications for the publishing industry including likelihood of consolidation, implications for small, learned society and pure gold publishers, transparency
d) Longer term sustainability of an APC-based market and applicability of APCs as a sustainable business model across all markets, publishers and subject areas
e) Implications for the distribution of publication costs within and across countries in an R&P environment
f) Implications if R&P agreements only become ubiquitous in some parts of the world
g) Implications for authors from the Global South
h) Implications for freedom to publish in preferred journals
i) Implications for arts, humanities and social sciences
j) Implications for innovation in research communication
k) Implications for service levels offered by publishers, including e.g. text and data mining, post-cancellation access rights etc.
l) Implications for transparency in the market, e.g. accountability for public funds, price-informed publication choices, etc.
m) Implications for demand and costs for Open Access infrastructure such as repositories and archives
Governance and funding

- Management centralised by EUA together with international group of sponsors
  - EUA as contracting body
  - Steering Committee composed of funders

- Total budget available for the contract: approx. €130,000

- Support and funding from 25 NRCs and EUA
Expected benefits

• Support national (or equivalent) consortia to develop new, more value for money, and better service, agreements

• Open new scenarios/routes towards Open Access

• Inform further dialogue between universities, research centers and with stakeholders in EU and worldwide, also in the context of Plan S
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Timeline

- Announcement: 20 February 2019
- Deadline for responses: 15 March 2019, 17h00
- Evaluation of responses: 15-29 March 2019
- Award of contract: Early April 2019
- Project launch: Early April 2019
- End of project: October 2019

Contact

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Thank you for your attention