

# OA2020 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC RESPONSE

**Spring 2025–B18 Conference (September 2026)**

Following the [17th Berlin Open Access Conference \(B17\)](#), OA2020 convened a series of regional advisory group meetings in the first half of 2025 to explore how the priorities identified at the conference could be advanced in diverse national and disciplinary contexts. These follow-up discussions—held across North America, South America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, Africa, and Oceania—gathered insights from institutional leaders and experts on both shared and region-specific issues in the transition from subscription-based publishing to open access. They also surfaced practical needs and strategic opportunities for greater coordination.

In response, OA2020 has mapped out a set of targeted coordinating efforts to support the community in advancing the priorities they have articulated. This document outlines those efforts, providing a roadmap of community efforts leading up to the 18th Berlin Open Access Conference (B18) in September 2026.



*OA2020 Initiative  
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## COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Our regional consultations and feedback from B17 indicated a range of shared concerns and locally specific priorities. While conditions vary, several key themes resonate across regions:

- **Challenges of cost and equity**

Stakeholders in many regions—particularly in Latin America, Africa, and parts of Asia—highlight persistent challenges in securing funding for open access publishing. High and variable article processing charges (APCs), alongside limited transparency in pricing models, are straining budgets and undermining support for local publishing infrastructures.

- **Need for greater transparency and reliable data**

Across all regions, there is broad agreement on the need for more open and consistent data on publishing costs, rejection rates, and publishing output. Better information is seen as essential to inform local decision-making and to support shared goals of transparency and accountability.

- **Navigating transition complexities**

In countries and consortia with more experience in negotiating transformative agreements, concerns are shifting from initial implementation to broader questions of long-term sustainability, workflow integration, and alignment with institutional goals.

- **Fostering cross-stakeholder collaboration**

Building shared understanding and stronger connections among funders, assessment bodies, libraries, and other stakeholders is key to aligning open access strategies, funding flows, and scholarly values—paving the way for a more sustainable and effective transition.

- **Supporting local infrastructures and diverse pathways**

Participants from several regions called for greater international recognition of local journals, platforms, and policies, and emphasized the need for collaborative approaches that reflect diverse publishing traditions—not only APC-based models.

- **Strengthening coordination and shared learning**

Institutions across all regions value opportunities to learn from others' experiences and strategies. There is a clear interest in continued international coordination through OA2020, including regular updates on publisher negotiations, shared benchmarks, and opportunities for collective reflection and action.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

May 2025 to B18 Conference (September 2026)

In response to these insights, OA2020 is advancing a strategic plan focused on enabling regional implementation, strengthening global coordination, and supporting the research community in shaping a more inclusive and transparent scholarly publishing system.

### Regional engagement and partnership building

- Expand outreach in key regions (including China, India, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Africa, and the United States) seeking engagement and collaborations with national consortia, funders, and research institutions.
- Maintain contact with Regional Advisory Groups to ensure the initiative remains responsive to evolving local contexts and priorities.
- Collaborate with aligned initiatives such as the Barcelona Declaration and the Diamond OA Alliance to explore shared approaches to transparency, author rights, and non-APC publishing models.
- Establish a Scientific Committee to ensure that researchers are more directly involved in shaping outreach strategies and communicating the purpose and impact of the transition.

### Investment models and policy alignment

- Facilitate dialogue among institutions exploring cost distribution mechanisms and alternative models for open access investment—such as cooperative funding, shared cost frameworks, and outcome-based agreements.
- Strengthen collaboration with assessment reform initiatives (e.g., DORA, CoARA, cOAlition S) to explore how open access strategies can be better aligned with evolving policies on research evaluation and academic reward systems.
- Lay the groundwork for a dedicated multi-stakeholder workshop in early 2026 to examine policy and investment strategies that can support long-term change.

### Working groups to build and advance shared frameworks

To co-develop the infrastructure and shared practices needed for a sustainable open access transition, OA2020 is launching a series of targeted working groups. These time-bound, outcome-driven groups will bring together institutional practitioners and allied partners to produce tools, guidance, and benchmarks that support negotiation, transparency, and equity in scholarly publishing.

#### – **Transparency working group**

Develop shared frameworks for reporting on publication and submission rates, retractions, metadata and open research information. Seek to collaborate with other transparency initiatives such as the Barcelona Declaration, and promote adoption via negotiations and ESAC resources.

- **Financial flows and future cost scenarios working group**  
Work to benchmark open access investments across institutions and develop models for fair pricing. Outputs will include case studies and analyses to support data-based conversations on costs and ‘fair share’ as well as strategic, equitable financial planning.
- **Assessment working group**  
Enhance the use and visibility of existing evaluation tools, including the ESAC’s How Transformative Is It? Spectrum and cOAlition S’s How Equitable Is It? Framework, through a consolidated online presence.
- **ESAC resources working group**  
Expand and enrich the ESAC Registry and associated tools to meet evolving community needs. Priorities include new metadata templates, automation features, and guidance for license terms, workflows, and transparency.

Each working group is aligned with OA2020’s broader strategy to coordinate community action, improve negotiation outcomes, and support lasting investment in open access.

### Community Learning and Exchange

- Expand the **Monthly Negotiation Update** series to include experiences from a wider range of countries and institutions, with attention to regional variations and emerging strategies.
- Launch a monthly **Moving OA Forward Focus Sessions** to explore critical issues and emerging topics such as like article growth, agreement models, AI clauses, open science, and regional disparities, featuring expert insights to foster collaboration and understanding.
- Host a **“What Comes Next” workshop** in early 2026 to reflect on progress and coordinate priorities for the next phase of the transition, leading into the B18 Conference in late 2026.
- Continue the six-monthly **OA2020 Negotiation Summits** as a space for shared learning, reflection, and strategy alignment.
- **Expand communications efforts** to raise awareness and visibility of negotiation case studies, ESAC tools, and resources through targeted campaigns. Provide regular updates on OA2020 community priorities, working group outcomes, and strategic progress to strengthen engagement and support for the open access transition.

Together, these activities aim to support institutions and communities in navigating the complexities of the open access transition, while ensuring that the system we are building is more equitable, transparent, and responsive to the needs of researchers around the world.

## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE OPEN ACCESS TRANSITION

Detailed summary of OA2020 Advisory Group consultations  
(Spring 2025)

Across all regions, participants underscored the increasing urgency of shifting from fragmented negotiations with commercial publishers to more coordinated investment strategies. There was broad agreement that current models of scholarly publishing remain misaligned with the interests of the research community, particularly in terms of cost transparency, equitable access, and the recognition of diverse publishing practices. While the scale and pace of the open access transition varies, many institutions are now past the point of piloting transformative agreements and are instead grappling with questions of sustainability, accountability, and inclusivity.

In **North America**, participants emphasized the need to sustain hard-won gains in publisher negotiations while navigating shifting institutional priorities and increasing budget pressures. Several institutions are moving toward more intentional, value-based investment strategies, though systemic obstacles—such as opaque pricing structures and misaligned incentive systems—continue to limit progress. There is a growing call for greater transparency in publisher behavior, especially around submission and retraction data, and for shared frameworks to evaluate investment outcomes beyond mere publication volume. Aligning open access strategies with broader reforms in research assessment and academic rights was seen as essential, especially to enable faculty engagement and ensure long-term institutional alignment.

In **South America**, the conversation centered on preserving and strengthening locally rooted publishing infrastructures amid rising financial pressure from commercial actors. Participants stressed that many institutions and national consortia are already investing substantially in open access—via platforms like SciELO and support for diamond OA journals—but these investments are not always recognized or integrated into global discussions. There was strong support for coordinated actions to demand fair pricing, resist exploitative APC models, and ensure that new publishing agreements reflect regional realities. A clear message emerged around the importance of equity and solidarity: regional infrastructures and academic values must not be undermined by one-size-fits-all approaches to transformation. Instead, participants called for more inclusive negotiations and frameworks that enable diverse models of open access to flourish.

In **Asia**, representatives from countries such as India, South Korea, China, and Japan described a complex landscape marked by rapid scientific output growth, diverse national funding schemes, and varied levels of institutional readiness. While interest in transformative agreements is increasing, many institutions remain cautious due to cost uncertainties, limited negotiating leverage, and concern about replicating inequities embedded in the subscription system. There is a shared recognition that open access must be made both financially and operationally sustainable in order to achieve widespread adoption. Key priorities identified by the group included developing flexible pricing mechanisms, enhancing transparency in publisher practices, and promoting

alignment with assessment reform initiatives at the national and regional levels. Participants also highlighted emerging concerns around AI-generated content and the implications of new technologies for scholarly integrity and infrastructure design.

In **Europe**, participants highlighted the critical need for international alignment around author-facing fees and sustainable article growth, with several representatives expressing concern about research integrity challenges. The group emphasized the importance of maintaining unity in consortium negotiations while exploring broader open access models beyond traditional transformative agreements, including stronger support for diamond open access and innovative business models. Key priorities included enhanced cost transparency and data sharing to enable fair pricing discussions, development of standard clauses for emerging issues like AI-generated content, and stronger alignment between open access strategies and research assessment reform at national levels. Several participants voiced support for expanded regional coordination, including possible European-level negotiations, while acknowledging the practical challenges of balancing collective action with the flexibility needed to address diverse national contexts and institutional priorities.

In the **Middle East, Africa, and Oceania**, participants spoke to both the potential and constraints of the open access transition within regions characterized by diverse economic conditions and publishing ecosystems. Institutional capacity and funding levels vary widely, and several contributors noted the need for more coordinated regional consortia to strengthen negotiating power and reduce duplication of effort. Transparency—particularly around pricing, usage data, and publisher workflows—was identified as a foundational requirement for fair agreements. Participants also emphasized the need for agreements to be tailored to national contexts, avoiding over-reliance on models developed in the Global North. Local journals and multilingual content were seen as essential components of a truly inclusive scholarly communication system, and there was strong support for capacity-building efforts to support their sustainability. Several participants stressed that workflow integration and post-agreement implementation remain ongoing challenges that require dedicated attention.

Taken together, the advisory group consultations confirm a global convergence around key issues—cost transparency, equity of participation, assessment reform, and the need for inclusive and accountable publishing models. At the same time, they highlight the necessity of regionally grounded strategies that respond to specific policy environments, infrastructure readiness, and institutional capacities.

These insights are informing OA2020's forward strategy, including the launch of new working groups focused on transparency, financial flows, assessment, and negotiation resources. They also reinforce the need to align open access efforts with broader transformations in research culture, funding accountability, and scholarly recognition—ensuring that the transition to open access is not only accelerated but made sustainable and equitable for all.