

To whom it may concern

Street
00000 City
Country

Subject

Endorsement of the Open Access 2020 Initiative

DD.MM.YYYY

Dear ...,

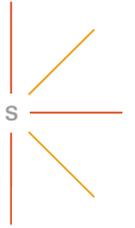
Around the world efforts are being made to foster Open Science, Open Data and Open Access, but with respect to the latter, the academic community's efforts over the past two decades have brought little progress. Indeed, even though Open Access is now a shared vision of the world's academic communities, research councils, and funding bodies, nearly 85% of the world's scholarly outputs are still locked behind paywalls, inhibiting the full impact of scientific research and miring the dissemination of scholarly outputs in an obsolete and dysfunctional system.

Building on the 2003 Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and the pursuant, urgent Mission Statement of 2013, OA2020 is a global initiative to propel open access forward by fostering and inciting the transformation of today's scholarly journals from the current subscription (paywall) system to new open access publishing models that enable unrestricted use and re-use of scholarly outputs and assure transparency and sustainability of publishing costs. The initiative is based on these principles:

- researchers should retain full rights to share their work and the freedom to publish in the journals of their choice and participate in the publishing services they wish;
- the current subscription model, with its ever-rising paywalls, is an unsustainable barrier to the full fruition of scientific research and the fundamental objectives of open access;

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80799 München
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<https://oa2020.org>



- scholarly publishing should be supported with economically sustainable and transparent business models and released from the constraints of an obsolete system of dissemination;

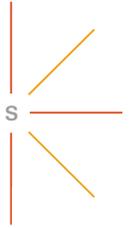
While continuing to support the development of other open access strategies, OA2020 aims to:

- Transform the core of today's scholarly journals from subscription to OA publishing in accordance with community-specific publication preferences.
- Pursue this transformation process by converting resources currently spent on journal subscriptions into funds to support sustainable OA business models.
- Engage all parties involved in scholarly publishing, in particular universities, research institutions, funders, libraries, and publishers in transformative actions to achieve a rapid and efficient transition for the benefit of scholarship and society at large.

These goals have been set out in the Open Access 2020 Expression of Interest, endorsed by scores of organizations to date, representing hundreds of scholarly institutions across five continents, including national and international research councils, funding agencies, university associations, research institutes, universities, academic councils, and publishers.

By endorsing the OA2020 Expression of Interest, which is non-binding, institutions commit to making best efforts to achieve the aims set out above. Potential benefits of endorsing OA2020 include:

- 1. Improved visibility and scholarly impact of our University's research and scholarly output.** Wider implementation of Open Access publishing will likely increase visibility and exposure for our authors and increase the extent to which their work is read, cited, and shared.
- 2. Greater ability for our faculty and scholars to conduct research thanks to increased access and re-use of content.** Making research results and scholarly publications more accessible improves dissemination of knowledge. Otherwise, there is the constant risk of losing access to many scholarly journals as subscription prices continue to rise and funding for the library changes year to year.
- 3. Emergence of sustainable business models for scholarly communication.** Publishing models that replace subscriptions with sustainable Open Access alternatives will not increase the total cost of journal publishing, and if well-designed will reduce overall costs through increased competition in the publishing industry and the influence of authors and funders on publishing market prices.
- 4. Greater ability for our faculty to use new and emerging research and scholarship in instruction.** Simultaneously increasing information's accessibility while reducing re-use



barriers (e.g. copyright/licensing restrictions) should allow faculty to make better use of new and emerging information in instruction.

5. Surer pathway toward making a global transition to Open Access. Open Access is gaining ever more significance in the academic landscape and OA2020 offers a framework for adopting specific processes and policies to implement OA on a local and global basis. Endorsing the Expression of Interest would send a clear signal to the global scholarly community and publishers about our collective intentions to make this transition for the sake of science and research.

6. Improved transparency and metrics tracking could reduce library collections expenditures. Open Access publishing platforms improve data analytics capacities, potentially allowing libraries to make more informed collections decisions in support of faculty and other scholars.

7. Improved impact for the work of our institution and its library. We would be acting a leader at the forefront of a global movement and participation in OA2020 would contribute to advancing its influence and visibility.

We therefore invite formal endorsement of OA2020 on behalf of our institution, through signature of the OA2020 Expression of Interest.

Best regards,

Attachments:

OA2020 Expression of Interest in the Large-scale Implementation of Open Access to Scholarly Journals (PDF with form for signature)