



SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CONSORTIUM – (RF) NPC

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Framework for Publisher Open Access (Transformational) Agreements

July 2021 – a communiqué for publishers

Preamble

SANLIC and its members are fully committed to:

- promoting open access (OA) for the advancement of South African research and research production through the increase in access to scholarly information,
- reducing the overall cost of library subscriptions, and
- seeking alternative forums for the distribution of South African scholarship.

A large portion of SANLIC members' resources are locked into existing journal subscription models which have deficiencies in terms of access, cost-efficiency, transparency, and restrictions of use. The publishing venues of choice for many of our researchers are either closed or the associated author facing charges are unaffordable.

Our research output data analysis reveals that roughly 60% of South Africa's corresponding authorship is behind a paywall and 61% is in closed or hybrid journals. If all (closed and hybrid) journals were to flip overnight to become full OA, the current combined reading and publishing expenditure for SANLIC members would decrease by approximately 44% (almost \$16m). The current expenditure on reading alone in our system is more than sufficient to cover our current publishing output in a scenario where all journals are fully open access.

At a Special General Meeting held on 23 June 2021 SANLIC members adopted the following principles with the intention of replacing existing journal reading subscription agreements, which no longer serve the interests of our researchers and the South African National System of Innovation, with agreements that incorporate reading and publishing services. In so doing, we expect to grow our members' research agenda and the dissemination thereof by negotiating agreements that incorporate the principles listed below.

SANLIC Directors

Chair: Ms L Vahed, **Deputy Chair:** Ms E Tise, **Treasurer:** Ms S Kibirige, Dr C Bitso, Mr H Maritz, Ms P Ntshuntshe-Matshaya, Dr D Selematsela, Ms L Soyizwapi, Mr G Truran.

Negotiation principles for a transformational transition to OA

These agreements must promote accessibility to local research which is crucial for accumulating and developing a corpus of local knowledge for the growth and development of society – African society.ⁱ

1. Inclusivity and social justice must be core. Publishers must have an equity, diversity and inclusion plan that addresses the challenges of researchers in the global south.
2. A single agreement for reading and publishing services.
3. Read access will not be compromised for our researchers, including perpetual access and post termination access.
4. Researchers can publish full and immediate OA in their venue of their choice to ensure the widest possible reading audience.
5. All publications must be under an open license, preferably the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY).
6. Publishers will provide tools/mechanisms that facilitate immediate deposit into institutional repositories.
7. Publishers will ensure the long-term digital preservation and accessibility of their content through participation in trusted digital archives.
8. No cap on the number of full and immediate OA articles.
9. Transparency for licensing deals – no non-disclosure clauses. Public money requires transparency of agreement terms and costs.
10. The initial term (duration of agreement) will be three years.
11. Renewal pricing must include all sites, campuses, and locations at no extra cost.
12. Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery to be permitted.
13. The agreement must reduce and constrain costs – publishers must be cognisant of the economic hardship being endured by SANLiC members, allowing members the flexibility to join or leave the agreement as their financial situation dictates.
14. Existing non-subscribers may join during the term of this agreement.
15. Aid compliance with funder mandates.
16. OA content must be discoverable, and agreements must support improvements in service and workflow for authors and administrators.

SANLiC will contact relevant publishers in July 2021 to set up appointments with those publishers identified for the first phase agreements (2022-2024).

ⁱ [SANLiC Statement on Open Access](#)