

# Recognizing our leverage

- or stepping away from the table is an option

Anna Lundén, Bibsam Consortium, 3rd of December 2018, Berlin





# Bibsam Consortium

- Formed in 1996
- Paradigm shift from print to e-journals, from individual subscriptions to big deals
- 85 participating organisations: HEIs, government agencies & research institutes
- 50 agreements, 300 e-resource packages
- Turnover approx. € 30,7 million (2018)
- Bibsam consortium steering committee
  - Chair: Vice Chancellor of Stockholm University Astrid Söderbergh Widding
  - 6 representatives from HEIs + 1 representative from the special libraries (non academic)
  - 2 representatives working for the Bibsam Consortium at the National Library of Sweden



# Coordination of Open Access to Research Publications in Sweden

- 2017 Government Appropriation Directive to the National Library of Sweden for Coordination of Open Access to Research Publications in Sweden
- All scientific publications resulting from research financed with public funds shall be published immediately open access
- The transition shall be fully realized within 10 years\* (2026)
- All stakeholders within the research system have a responsibility to work towards this goal
- The Advisory Group for Open Access is chaired by Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Vice Chancellor of Stockholm University



# Open Science as a Practise

*"Stockholm University advocates the availability of its research and research results through a research and education environment that promotes, encourages and informs about open science as a practice"*



AUG. 2016

## Give Open Access and Open Science the Attention they Deserve

Astrid Söderbergh Widding, Vice-Chancellor of Stockholm University



# Swedish Rectors' Conference

- The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF)
- Established 1995, 37 members
- "An arena for cooperation"
- Library Directors Forum (2006)
- Open Science Group (2017)
- SUHF chairs the Bibsam Steering Committee
- SUHF chairs the Open Access Advisory Group





# Swedish Rectors' Conference

- **2016:**
- Open Science is not a library question!
- But the libraries could help in building infrastructures, lobbying and educate

SUHF

# Negotiating Delegation for Elsevier

- Chair: Vice Chancellor Astrid Söderbergh Widding
- Two representatives from the Steering Committee: Library directors from Stockholm University and the Karolinska Institute
- Two representatives working for the Bibsam Consortium at the National Library of Sweden
- For high level meetings representatives also from the Ministry of Educations and the Swedish Research Council



# Bibsam's Preconditions

- 3 year agreement period (2018-2020)
- Full immediate OA to Swedish publications by 2020
- Reading rights to Freedom Collection, including Lancet and Cell Press titles
- OA publishing in all titles in Freedom Collection, including Lancet and Cell Press titles
- Sustainable cost-neutral transition in line with the international initiative [OA2020](#)





# Products Purchased from Elsevier

Products	Turnover 2017
ScienceDirect Freedom Collection	€ 12.6 million
Titles outside Freedom Collection	€ 100 000
Cell Press	€ 300 000
<b>Total spend journals</b>	<b>€ 13 million</b>
APC spend (in the wild)	€ 1.3 million
Database spend	€ 1.1 million
E-books, reference books etc. (outside the Consortium)	Unknown

# Elsevier's Proposal

- Three year deal 2018 - 2020 (in the initial offer Elsevier proposed a five year deal)
- **Increased reading fee** between the years
- Removal of PTA from 2018 and onwards
- Prepayment of APCs
- Discounted APCs, **decreased discount** each year
- Reading access only to Cell press and Lancet titles
- Approx. 70 % Open Access by the end of the agreement period



# Swedish Rectors' Conference

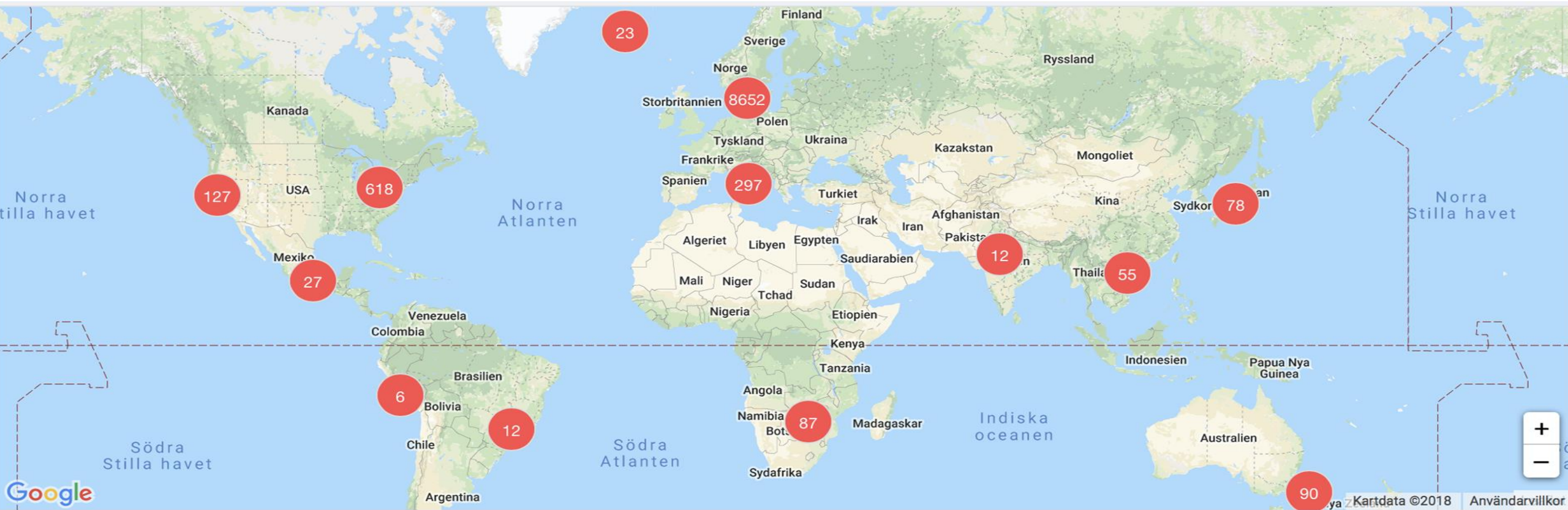
- **Spring 2018:**
- Discussion about the negotiations with Elsevier
- A choice of approach
- Unanimously decision to advice the Bibsam steering committee to cancel the agreement with Elsevier





# Cancellation

- A communication plan was prepared
- A press release was sent out with information about the cancellation



# Press, Blogs and Tweets

- Both Swedish and international press has reported about the cancellation, for example The Scientist and Nature
- The cancellation is put into an international context focusing on the fact that more and more countries are working towards deals with an open access parameter
- Several vice chancellors expressed their support via their vice chancellor blogs
- Podcasts
- A lot of discussions on Twitter

NEWS



Astrid Söderbergh Widding, president of Stockholm University, is the chair of the Bibsam Consortium's steering group and is leading the negotiations with Elsevier.

ASTRID SÖDERBERGH WIDDING:

**We must take control of publication costs**

# Feedback Form

- Set up in July to inform researchers about the cancellation and allow them to send feedback
- Only received an overview from Elsevier once...

Elsevier supports helping you maintain the impact of your research output

The National Library of Sweden (Bibsam Consortium) has decided to discontinue access for Swedish researchers to Elsevier's latest scientific, technical and medical content from 30 June 2018. This does not affect researchers' ability to access content published via our e-platform ScienceDirect prior to that date. It also does not affect open access content, both Gold (author paid) and Green (accessible post embargo).

We held constructive and positive conversations about a new contract in support of Sweden's Open Access goals. Both sides felt the negotiations were conducted in a spirit of mutual appreciation with a willingness for compromise. Unfortunately, however, we could not come to an agreement in the end and Bibsam Consortium informed us of their decision not to renew the contract on behalf of the universities Bibsam represents, including yours. We regret the decision of the Bibsam Consortium to discontinue access to Elsevier's latest, high-quality content and remain open to restart constructive talks to help and support Sweden's transition to Open Access.

**If you have any questions, please contact your institution or the National Library of Sweden via this form.**

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Work Email Address\*

Organization Name\*

Message (free text field)\*

☐ I approve of Elsevier sharing this message with the



# Positive Response from Researchers

- There are plenty of academic organisations publishing journals of higher quality than Elsevier. We don't need Elsevier!
- I just want to express my support for the decision to not accept Elsevier's subscription terms.
- Thank you Bibsam for taking this stance.
- Elsevier, I truly hope you will change track.
- I would like to state that, even though this may create some problems for my own research work, I fully support Bibsam's cancellation of the agreement with Elsevier.
- I hope Bibsam will continue to stand up for open, transparent and affordable publication of research articles.
- That is absolutely not a problem. One can use sci-hub to access articles after 2018-07-01 if it is fine with you.



Elias Jarlebring

@ejarlebring

Following

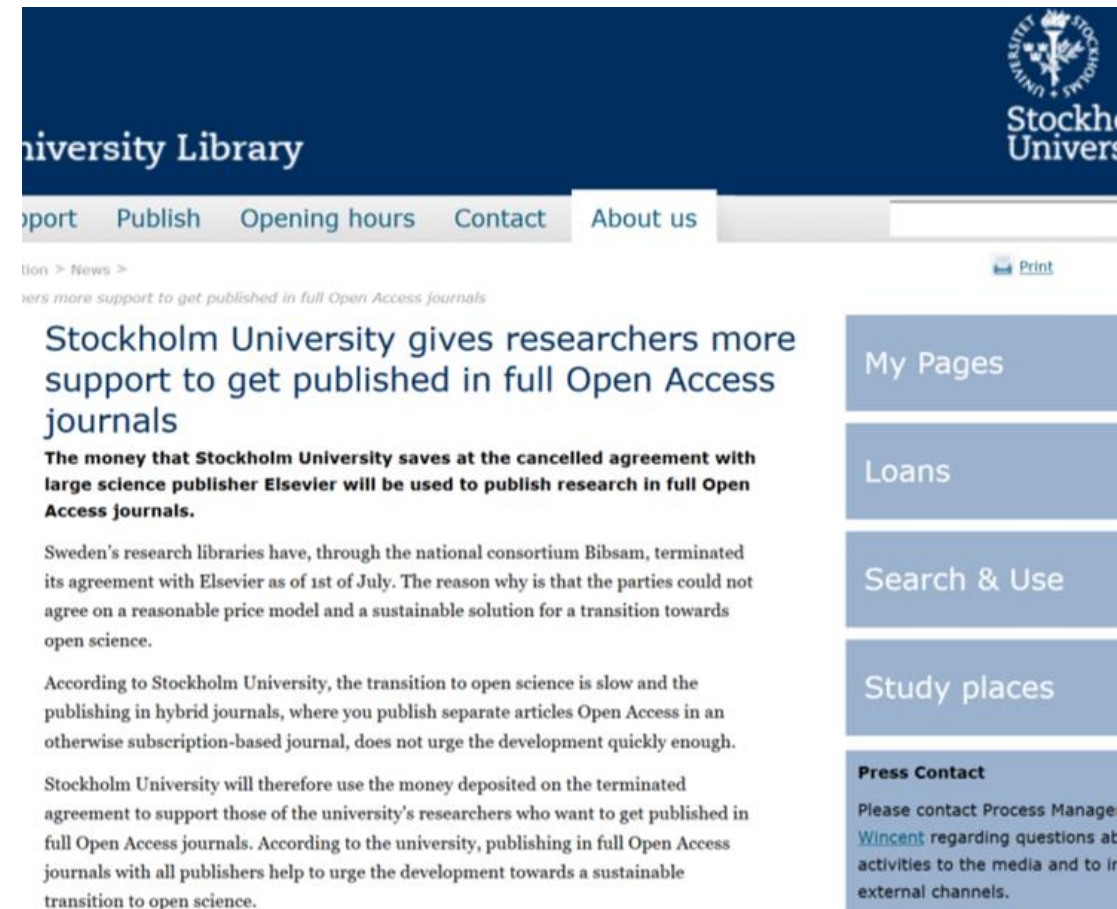
Nope. No review for [#elsevier](#) due behaviour with swedish universities and other practices. They take tax payers through library, make money from my research, put a big political advertisement banner on my paper and then think I will do review. No thanks.  
[#thecostofknowledge](#)



# University Initiatives

## Stockholm University

- Get published in full Open Access free of charge. The money that Stockholm University saves from the cancelled agreement with Elsevier will be used to publish research in full Open Access journals.
- <https://www.su.se/english/library/about-us/press-information/2.42247/get-published-in-full-open-access-free-of-charge-this-is-how-you-do-1.398317>



The screenshot shows the Stockholm University Library website. The header includes the university's name and logo. A navigation bar contains links for Support, Publish, Opening hours, Contact, and About us. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a news article titled "Stockholm University gives researchers more support to get published in full Open Access journals". The article text states that the money saved from a cancelled agreement with Elsevier will be used to publish research in full Open Access journals. It also mentions that Sweden's research libraries have terminated their agreement with Elsevier as of 1st of July. The article further explains that the transition to open science is slow and that the university will use the money deposited on the terminated agreement to support those of the university's researchers who want to get published in full Open Access journals. The right sidebar contains links for My Pages, Loans, Search & Use, Study places, and Press Contact.

Stockholm University Library

Support Publish Opening hours Contact About us

tion > News >

ers more support to get published in full Open Access journals

### Stockholm University gives researchers more support to get published in full Open Access journals

**The money that Stockholm University saves at the cancelled agreement with large science publisher Elsevier will be used to publish research in full Open Access journals.**

Sweden's research libraries have, through the national consortium Bibsam, terminated its agreement with Elsevier as of 1st of July. The reason why is that the parties could not agree on a reasonable price model and a sustainable solution for a transition towards open science.

According to Stockholm University, the transition to open science is slow and the publishing in hybrid journals, where you publish separate articles Open Access in an otherwise subscription-based journal, does not urge the development quickly enough.

Stockholm University will therefore use the money deposited on the terminated agreement to support those of the university's researchers who want to get published in full Open Access journals. According to the university, publishing in full Open Access journals with all publishers help to urge the development towards a sustainable transition to open science.

My Pages

Loans

Search & Use

Study places

**Press Contact**

Please contact Process Manager [Wincent](#) regarding questions about activities to the media and to external channels.

# University Initiatives

## Linköping University

- The University Library pays publication fees to researchers who publish in pure open access journals
- [https://www2.bibl.liu.se/oafond/login\\_en.aspx](https://www2.bibl.liu.se/oafond/login_en.aspx)
- Developed a survival guide

Linköping University Library

# SURVIVAL GUIDE

HELP! I CAN'T GET ACCESS TO THE ARTICLE I NEED!

**UniSearch**  
**Google Scholar**  
**Google**

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**Unpaywall:** A plugin to your web browser that helps you find free versions of articles through Google. Download for free: <http://unpaywall.org/> [revised 2017-11-07]

**Google Scholar button:** A plugin from Google. Select the title of the article you want and click the blue icon. Several versions for different browsers are available. The Google Chrome version is available at: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/google-scholar-button/ldpctpaocsfocobnbodddnhejcpn7hinx> [revised 2017-11-07]

**UniSearch:** Besides books and journals at Linköping University Library, the search service UniSearch covers many databases, e.g. PubMedCentral.

**PubMedCentral (PMC):** is an open database with articles in the medicine/life sciences fields. Search through UniSearch.

**ArXiv** is an open database with early versions of articles published in journals in the natural sciences field. Search through UniSearch.

**Researchgate.net** and **Academia.edu** are social medias for researchers. Ask your fellow researchers for the article you need.

**Email the author**, who is probably interested in being read and cited.

**Use Twitter!** With #ICanHazPDF, you can request articles. Read more at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICanHazPDF>. [revised 2017-11-07]

**Open access button** is a website where you can search and get access to articles, <http://openaccessbutton.org/> [revised 2017-11-07]

**FIND OUT MORE**

The five big publishers: Reed-Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Wiley-Blackwell, Springer and Sage dominate academic publishing: Larivière V, Haustein S, Mongeon P (2015) The Oligopoly of Academic Publishers in the Digital Era. *PLoS ONE* 10(6): e0127502. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0127502>. [revised 2017-11-07]

Unpaywall is a new tool for finding free versions of articles: Singh Chawla, D. (2017) Unpaywall finds free versions of paywalled papers. *Nature toolbox* 04 April 2017. <http://doi.org/10.1038/nature.2017.21765>. <https://www.nature.com/news/unpaywall-finds-free-versions-of-paywalled-papers-1.21765>. [revised 2017-11-07]

Articles in scientific journals are not available to everyone: Habib, Adam. (2011) How academic journals price out developing countries. *Blog post* The conversation 25 July 2011. <http://theconversation.com/how-academic-journals-price-out-developing-countries-2488>. [revised 2017-11-07]

For further tips and advice, please contact us at [forlinkingstod@bibl.liu.se](mailto:forlinkingstod@bibl.liu.se)

li.u LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY Library liu.se/biblioteket



# University Initiatives

## Karolinska Institute

How to access Elsevier material published after July 1, 2018

- OA known by PubMed
- Install browser plugins
- Search
- Use your network
- Get it from the library
- "Get it know" service available



# Swedish Rectors' Conference

- **October 2018:**
- Professor Hippler shared experiences about Project Deal
- Discussions about Plan S and transformative agreements



# Steering Committee's Recommendations

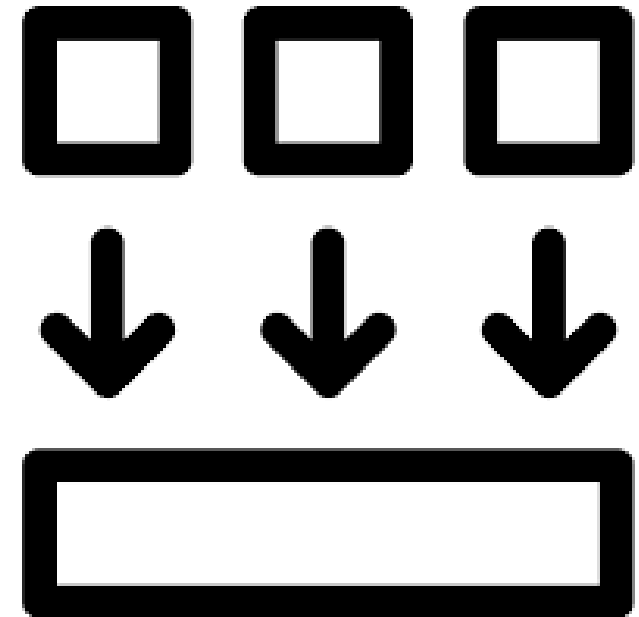
- The negotiation team should not contact Elsevier, but await the publisher to take the first step
- Participating institutions should refrain from meetings with Elsevier regarding journals
- Participating institutions should not renew single/local subscriptions
- A working group has been formed to evaluate and report by the end of June 2019 the cancellation's effect on:
  - researchers and students;
  - HEIs/libraries, and;
  - the Consortium as a whole





# New Attempts...

- Declined a meeting in Japan this summer
- Accepted an informal meeting in Stockholm this autumn
- Formal letter from Elsevier asking for a meeting with Bibsam
- High level meeting planned for December 18th
- The aim of the meeting is to discuss how Sweden can move forward to reach 100% Open Access in a sustainable way – a truly transformative agreement
- Possible outcome could be a Memorandum of Understanding on how to proceed the negotiations



# Lessons Learned so far...

- Support from the Vice Chancellors is extremely important
- Political backing
- Preparation is everything
- Get in control of your own publication data
- A communication plan is needed
- Researchers seem to manage fairly well without current access to Elsevier journals
- Services like "Get it now" are not yet as heavily used as expected
- Never underestimate your opponent...



# Elsevier's Lawsuit against Swedish ISPs



## This is a barrier between you and elsevier.com!

You were just about to visit a website that is powered by the dutch academic publisher Elsevier, and we at Bahnhof would just like to say a couple of things about that company before you proceed.

On the 10th of October this year Elsevier filed a lawsuit against us and six other Swedish ISPs, since our internet services can be used to visit websites with illegal access to texts that Elsevier are copyright holders of. Instead of thwarting the websites giving illegal access to the texts, Elsevier has chosen to sue us for providing our customers with an internet connection and demand that we block the file sharing sites in our network, or pay a fine of 500 000 Swedish kronor ( ≈ 48 500 EUR).

# More Information

- Press release English  
[https://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/kungliga\\_biblioteket/pressreleases/sweden-stands-up-for-open-access-cancels-agreement-with-elsevier-2508242](https://www.mynewsdesk.com/se/kungliga_biblioteket/pressreleases/sweden-stands-up-for-open-access-cancels-agreement-with-elsevier-2508242)
- Alternative routes to scholarly articles and research outputs  
<http://openaccess.blogg.kb.se/bibsamkonsortiet/alternative-routes-to-scholarly-articles-and-research-outputs/>
- Link to articles about the cancellation:  
<http://openaccess.blogg.kb.se/bibsamkonsortiet/>
- More information: <http://openaccess.blogg.kb.se/bibsamkonsortiet/>
- 100 days post cancellation of Elsevier:  
<http://openaccess.blogg.kb.se/2018/10/11/100-days-post-cancellation-of-elsevier/>