Subscribe to Open (S2O)

Collaborative and Equitable Open Access

Richard Gallagher

President, Annual Reviews

rgallagher@annualreviews.org

Association of Libraries of Czech Universities
Open Access Week 2023

ANNUAL REVIEWS

AKVŠ
ASOCIACE KNIHOVEN VYSOKÝCH ŠKOL ČR

Overview

- The OA vision (plus an add-on)

- A Step-by-Step Guide to S2O

- Why was S2O developed?

- The S2O Community of Practice

- Where is S2O now, a what is its future?

The OA Vision

Immediate, universal availability of *all* research at no cost to reader, supported by an equitable, collaborative, transparent and sustainable financial model.

Plus, more effective communication of research findings to social, financial, political and cultural institutions.
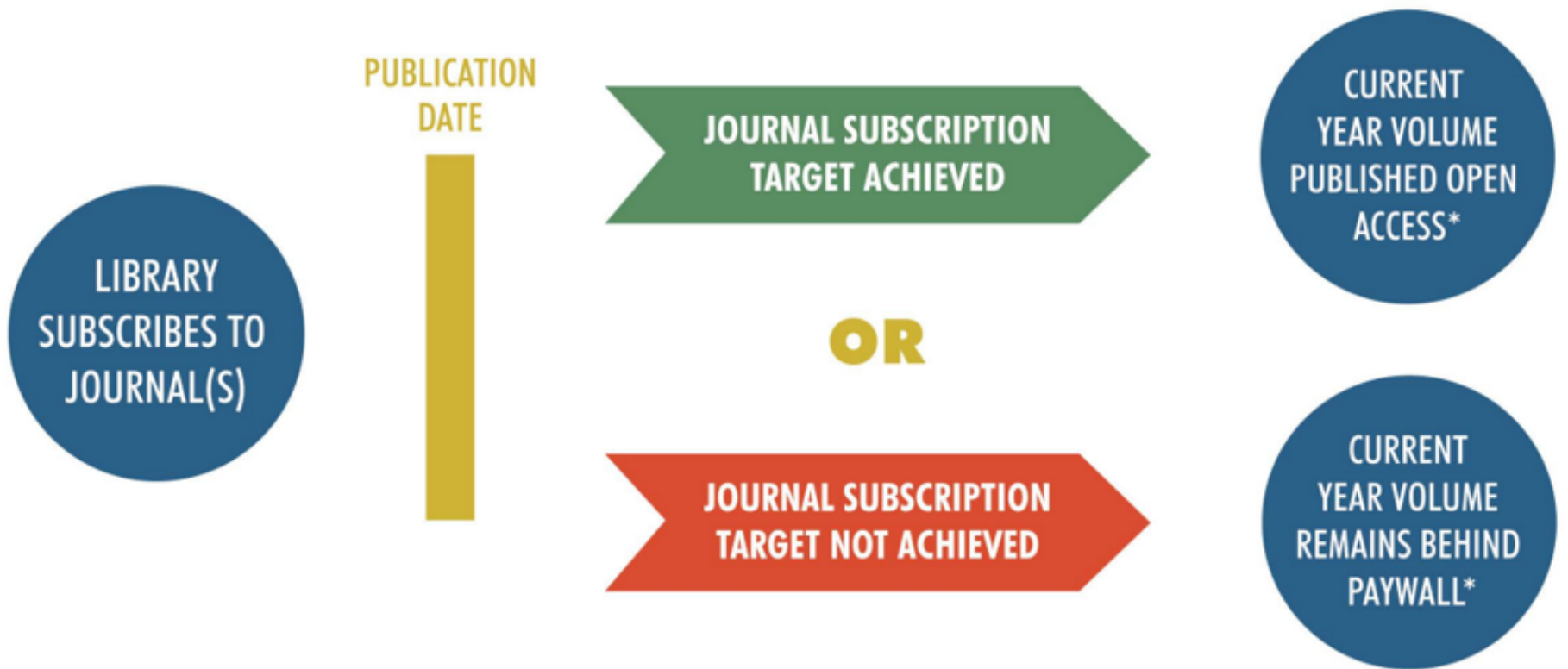
A Step-by-Step Guide to S2O

- Existing library customers asked to continue to subscribe.

- When all subscribers commit, year's volume published OA under Creative Commons license.

- If all subscribers do not participate the volume is not published OA; paywall is retained.

- S2O repeated each year as with traditional subscription.

- Annual Reviews monitors usage and seeks new subscribers.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN

PUBLICATION DATE

LIBRARY SUBSCRIBES TO JOURNAL(S)

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION TARGET ACHIEVED

CURRENT YEAR VOLUME PUBLISHED OPEN ACCESS*

OR

JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION TARGET NOT ACHIEVED

CURRENT YEAR VOLUME REMAINS BEHIND PAYWALL*

*Subscribing institutions benefit from pre and post access rights regardless of target achievement.

Features of S2O

- Conceptually simple

- Revenue neutral – no additional costs

- Uses existing library budgets

- Uses existing relationships – libraries, consortia, subscription agents, publishers' staff

- Applies equally to readers and authors worldwide

- Applies equally to all disciplines and institutions

Where was S2O developed?

Annual Reviews is a nonprofit publisher dedicated to synthesizing and integrating knowledge for the progress of science and the benefit of society.

- A not-for-profit company, founded in 1931
- Established by the scientific community to benefit science
- Only publish review journals – 51 in total
- Content is 100% invited – no submitted papers

ANNUAL REVIEWS

Why was S2O developed?

- Scientific evidence informs many of the issues that society is grappling with today.

- A functional democracy requires that policy-makers, corporations and citizens have access to the knowledge and wisdom of the world's leading researchers.

- Annual Reviews captures this knowledge and wisdom across 51 fields of research.

- It must be available to all researchers and other users.

Options for Open Access in 2018

Article Processing Charge?
- All authors invited
- High costs per article?

Read and Publish?
- Experts often at leading research institutions.
- Burden would fall on few subscribers.

Philanthropy/Funder Support?
Now called Diamond OA.

Leverage existing relationships and systems?

Why was S2O developed?

- Scientific evidence informs many of the issues that society is grappling with today.

- A functional democracy requires that policy-makers, corporations and citizens have access to the knowledge and wisdom of the world's leading researchers.

- Annual Reviews captures this knowledge and wisdom across 51 fields of research.

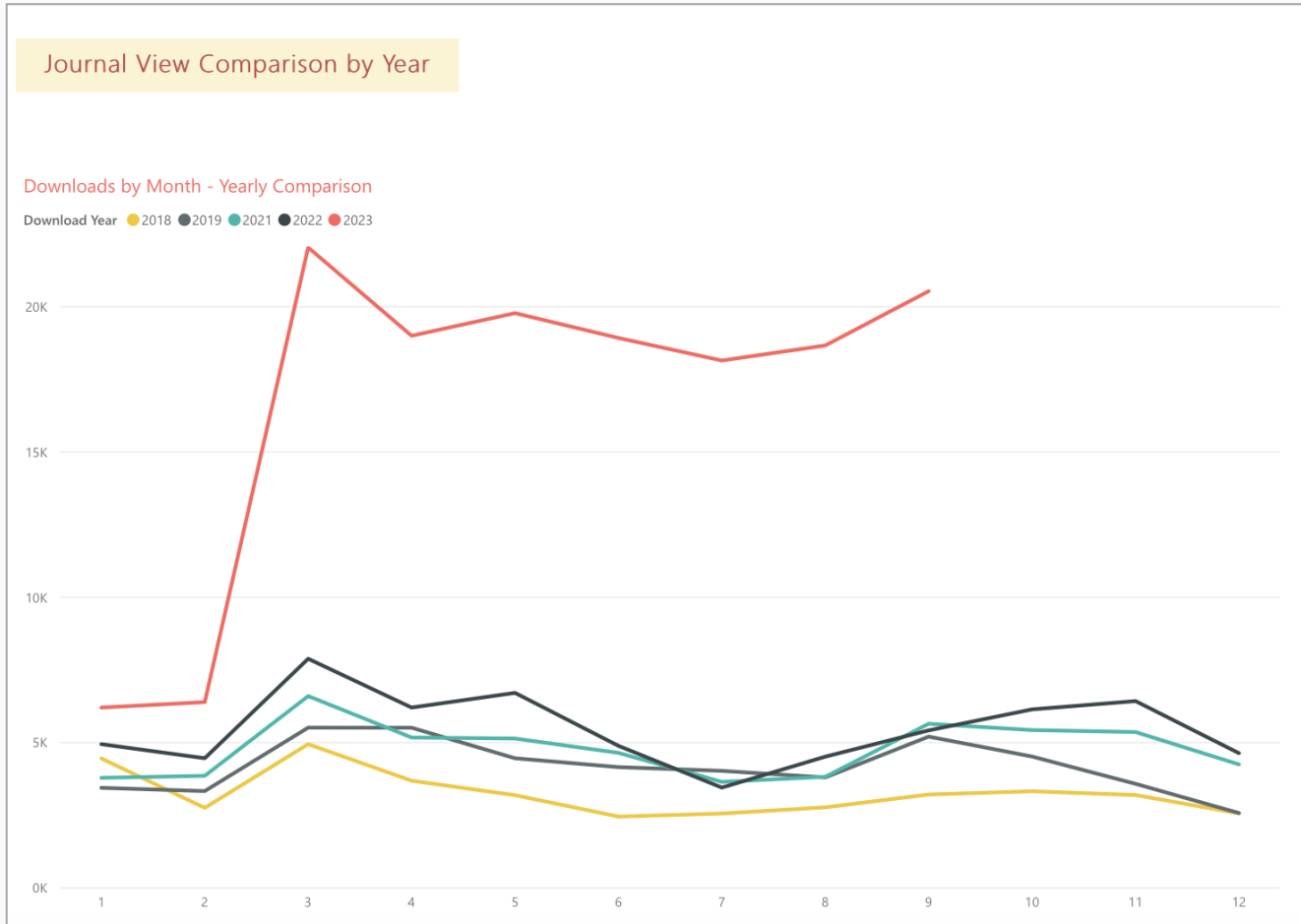- It must be available to all researchers and other users.

S2O Milestones for Annual Reviews

- 2017: Raym Crow, consultant, engaged by Annual Reviews.

- 2019: Article describing S2O published: "Subscribe to Open: A practical approach for converting subscription journals to open access", https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1262.

- 2020: First pilot study with 5 Annual Reviews journals.

- 2020: S2O Community of Practice established.

- 2021: Pilot extended to 8 Annual Reviews journals.

- 2023: All 51 Annual Reviews journals OA via S2O.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

Example: Annual Review of Statistics

Journal View Comparison by Year

Downloads by Month - Yearly Comparison
Download Year ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023
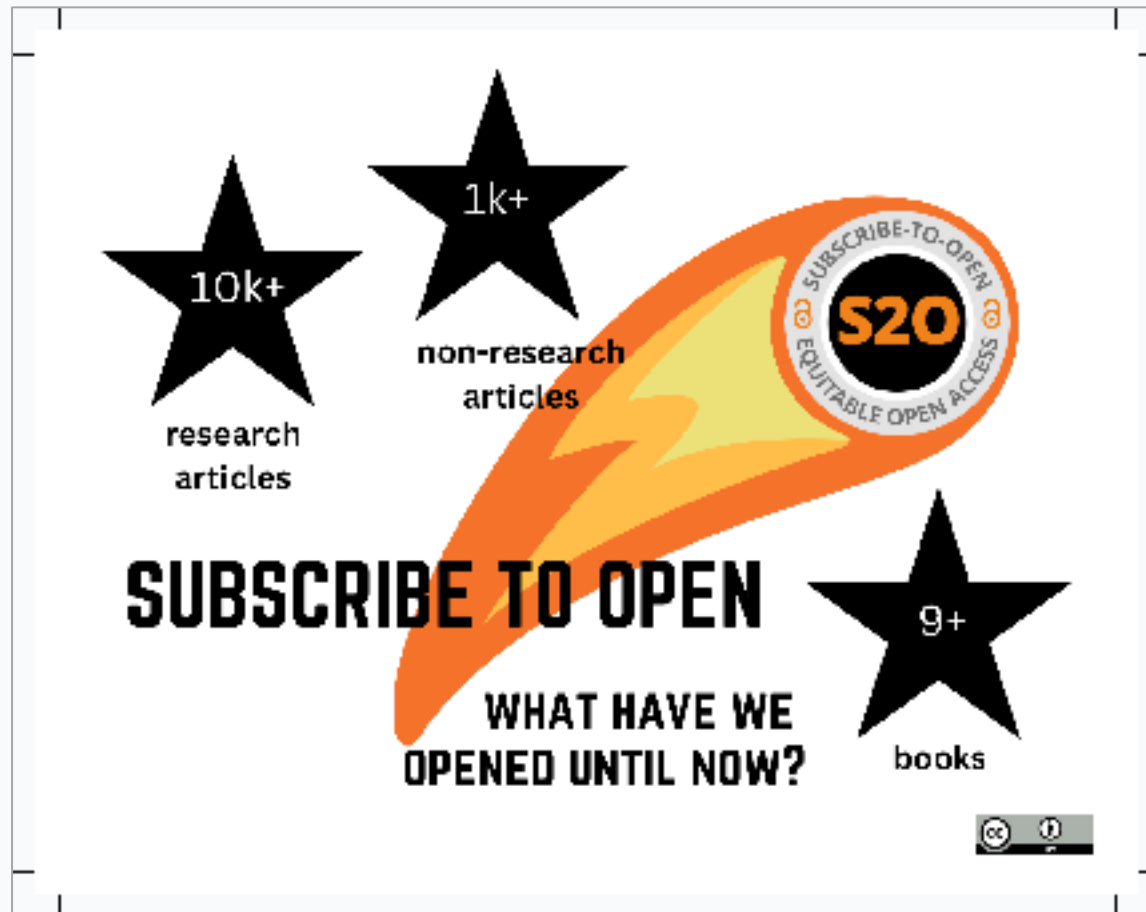
ANNUAL REVIEWS

The S2O Community of Practice

- First meeting in September, 2020: 12 participants. Next meeting, November, 2023: 190 people.

- Zoom meetings first Thursday of month, 16:00 CET.

- Participants include librarians, consortia managers, publishers (journals and books), agents, funders, researchers.

- Monthly meetings, collaborative environment. All welcome!

- The group addresses questions, establishes definitions and boundaries for S2O approaches, assist with conversions to S2O.

- Running total: 22 publishers, 168 journals, use S2O to deliver OA.

ANNUAL REVIEWS

S2O Current Status

The Future of S2O

- Adoption by more publishers, especially societies other non-profit.

- Journal and book programs thriving.

- Seems suited to smaller nonprofit and for-profit publishers, including societies.

- Development of linked S2O programs, so that subscribers to one set of journals get guaranteed access to to other journals that they don't subscribe to.

- S2O strategies to support new journals and other products and services will be introduced.

Conclusions

- S2O has advantages over APC and R&P models – simple, equitable, impactful (converts entire journals).

- So far, applications are to pre-existing journals.

- Not yet applied by any large commercial publisher.

- The library community is awesome – have been very supportive of S2O!