Subscribe to Open (S2O)
Collaborative and Equitable Open Access

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Open Access Week 2023
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.
SUBSCRIBE TO \(\text{OPEN}\)

- Library subscribes to journal(s)
- Publication date
- Journal subscription target achieved
- Journal subscription target not achieved
- Current year volume published open access*
- 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
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?
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S2O Milestones for Annual Reviews


- 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.
Example: Annual Review of Statistics
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.
S2O Current Status

10k+ research articles
1k+ non-research articles

SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN
WHAT HAVE WE OPENED UNTIL NOW?
9+ books

ANNUAL REVIEWS
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 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!