

**Open Access in Latin America:  
Too rich for discounts, too poor to publish**

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# Science Communication Should be Open

nature > commentary > article

MENU ▾ **nature**

Commentary | Published: 30 April 1992

## The growing inaccessibility of science

Donald P. Hayes

*Nature* **356**, 739–740(1992) | Cite this article

1015 Accesses | 44 Citations | 27 Altmetric | Metrics

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open

2011: Alexandra Elbakyan Kazakhstan

It is piracy!

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# Publishing models



# What are pre-prints?

- 1991: ArXiv - an open-access repository of electronic preprints and (sometimes) postprints (known as e-prints) approved for posting after moderation, but not peer review
- 2013: BioRxiv
- 2019: MedRxiv
- Advantages: immediate, free, open, could be the start for a single peer review system
- Disadvantages: variable quality, no curation for quality, variable attention/reviews

HOME > NEWS > SCIENCEINSIDER > WHITE HOUSE REQUIRES IMMEDIATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ALL U.S.-FUNDED RESEARCH PAPERS BY 2025

SCIENCEINSIDER | POLICY

# White House requires immediate public access to all U.S.-funded research papers by 2025

Policy is a blow to journal paywalls, but its impact on publishing is unclear

# Plan S and the push for immediate open access



## What is cOAlition S?

On 4 September 2018, a group of national research funding organisations, with the support of the European Commission and the European Research Council (ERC), announced the launch of cOAlition S, an initiative to make full and immediate Open Access to research publications a reality. It is built around Plan S, which consists of one target and 10 principles.

cOAlition S signals the commitment to implement the necessary measures to fulfil its main principle:

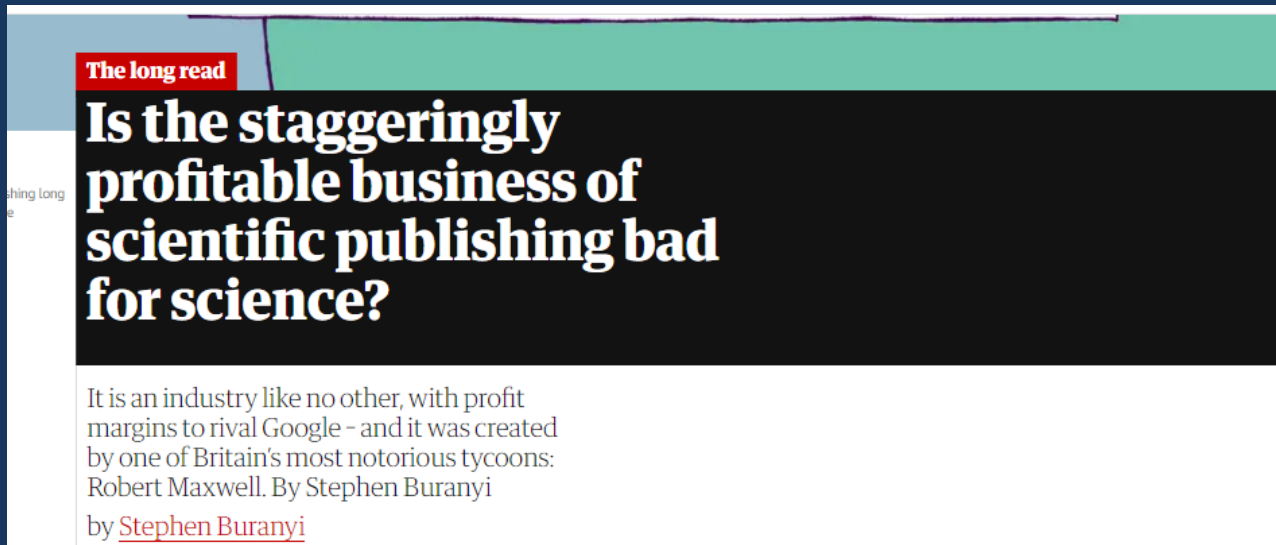
“With effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.”

**Posting a preprint does not comply with Plan S!**

# The bizarre scientific publishing industry

*The industry structure can only be described as bizarre - the state funds most research, pays the salaries of most of those checking the quality of research (in peer review processes), and then buys most of the published product.*

*Turning the Supertanker, Deutsche Bank, 2005*



The screenshot shows a portion of a news article from The Guardian. At the top left, there is a red box with the text "The long read". Below this, the main headline is "Is the staggeringly profitable business of scientific publishing bad for science?" in large, bold, black font. Underneath the headline, there is a sub-headline in smaller black font: "It is an industry like no other, with profit margins to rival Google - and it was created by one of Britain's most notorious tycoons: Robert Maxwell. By Stephen Buranyi". At the bottom left of the sub-headline, it says "by [Stephen Buranyi](#)".

*36% profit margin – higher than Apple, Google, or Amazon*

*The Guardian*

# Are APC prices a luxury tax?

NEWS | 24 November 2020

## Nature journals reveal terms of landmark open-access option

The journals will charge authors up to €9,500 to make research papers free to read, in a long-awaited alternative to subscription-only publishing.

33 Nature journals








Hybrid open access *		
Cancer Cell	£7,000, €7,600, \$8,900	12 months
Cell	£7,800, €8,500, \$9,900	12 months
Cell Chemical Biology	£7,000, €7,600, \$8,900	12 months

15 Cell journals



# The Oligopoly's Shift to Open Access. How For-Profit Publishers Benefit from Article Processing Charges

 Butler, Leigh-Ann;  Matthias, Lisa;  Simard, Marc-André;  Mongeon, Philippe;  Haustein, Stefanie

This study aims to estimate the total amount of article processing charges (APCs) paid to publish open access (OA) in journals controlled by the large commercial publishers Elsevier, Sage, Springer-Nature, Taylor & Francis and Wiley, the so-called oligopoly of academic publishing. Since the early 2010s, these five academic publishers control more than half of peer-reviewed journal articles indexed in the Web of Science (WoS), expanding their market power through acquisitions and mergers. While traditionally their business model focused on charging subscriptions to read articles, they have now shifted to OA, charging authors fees for publishing. These APCs often amount to several thousand dollars, excluding many from publishing on economic grounds. This study computes an estimate of the total amounts of APCs paid to oligopoly publishers between 2015 and 2018, using publication data from WoS, OA status from Unpaywall and annual APC prices from open datasets and historical fees retrieved via the Internet Archive Wayback Machine. We estimate that globally authors paid the oligopoly of academic publishers \$1.06 billion in publication fees in the 4-year period analyzed. Of the 505,903 OA articles analyzed, 60.9% were published in gold OA journals, 8.6% in diamond (gold with APC=\$0) and 30.5% in hybrid journals. Revenue from gold OA amounted to \$612.5 million, while \$448.3 million was obtained for publishing OA in hybrid journals, for which publishers already charge subscription fees. Among the five publishers, Springer-Nature made the

# What are the Plan S principles?

## Part I: The Plan S Principles

“With effect from 2021\*, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in [Open Access Journals](#), on [Open Access Platforms](#), or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.”

*\*For funders agreeing after January 2020 to implement Plan S in their policies, the start date will be one year from that agreement*

**04** Where applicable, Open Access publication fees are covered by the Funders or research institutions, not by individual researchers; it is acknowledged that all researchers should be able to publish their work Open Access;

**08** The Funders do not support the 'hybrid' model of publishing. However, as a transitional pathway towards full Open Access within a clearly defined timeframe, and only as part of [transformative arrangements](#), Funders may contribute to financially supporting such arrangements;

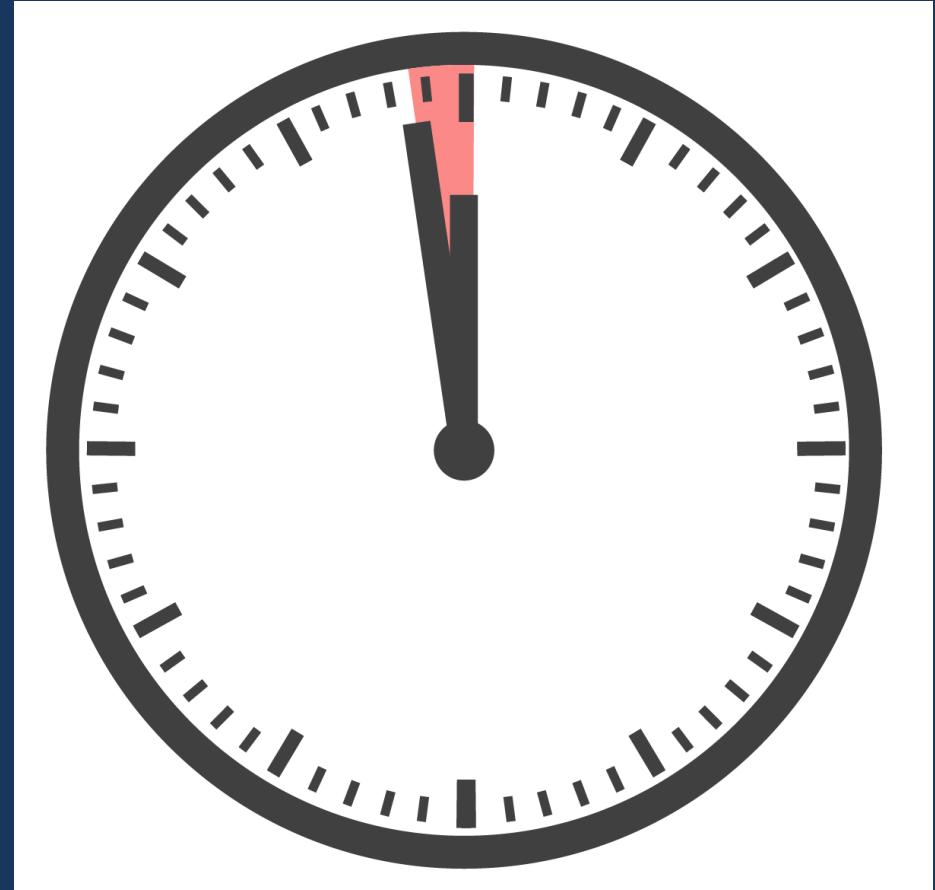


If your funding agency endorses Plan S you **must** publish only in Gold/Diamond OA journals.

Journals are changing towards “transformative arrangements” until 2024

**Doomsday:**  
**December 31, 2024**

All journals will be  
Open Access only



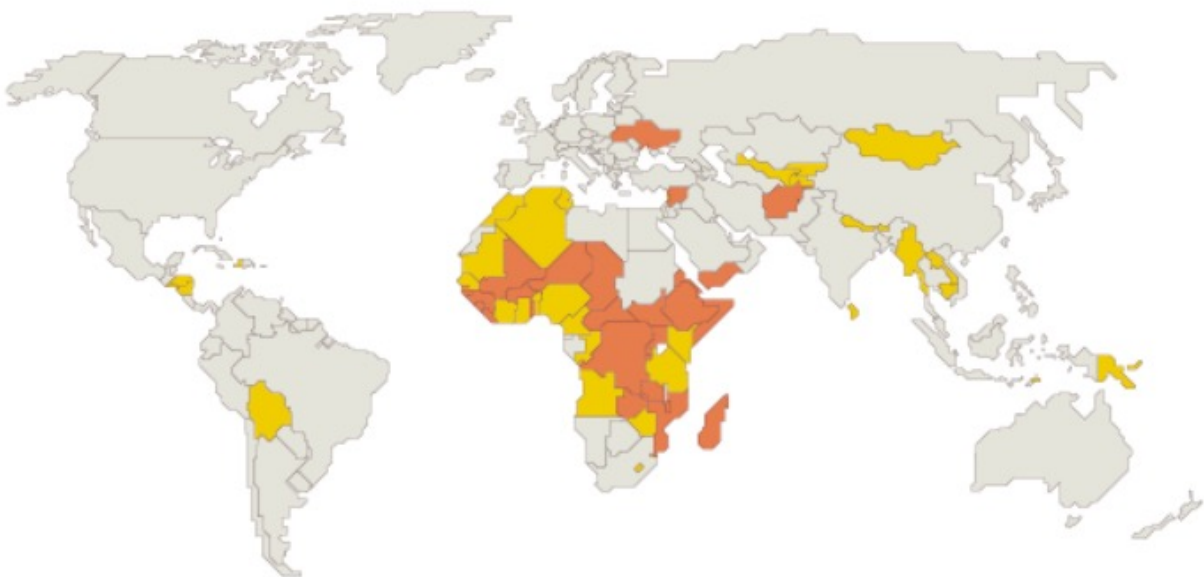
**But what about authors who can't afford APCs?**

# TERRITÓRIOS BENEFICIADOS

Países que podem ser incluídos em políticas de desconto ou isenção de taxas para publicação em acesso aberto

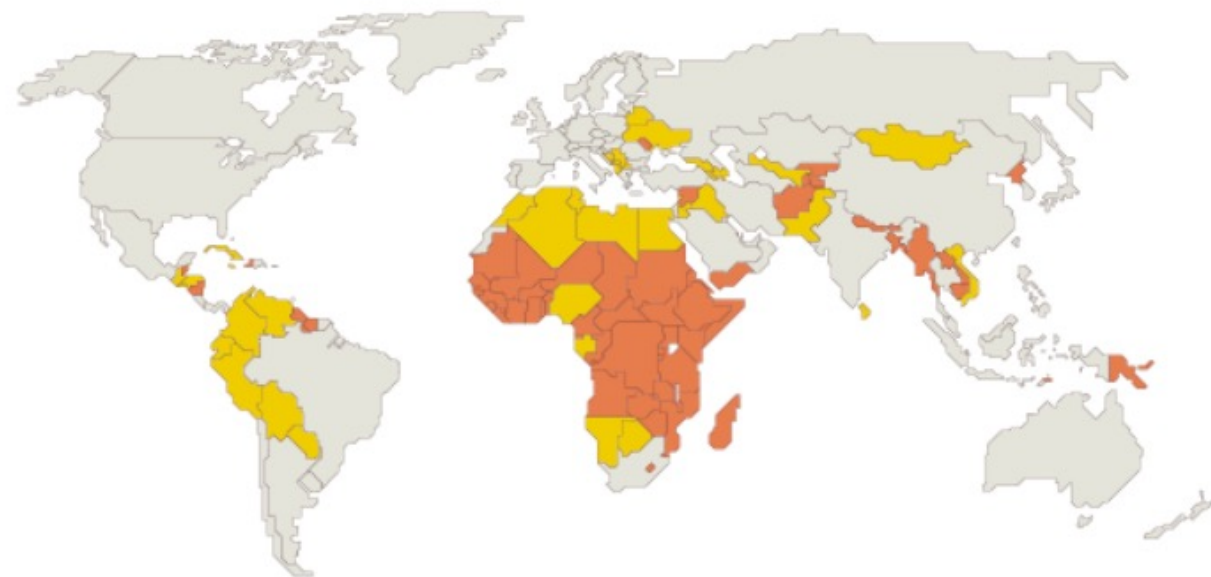
SEGUNDO CRITÉRIOS DO BANCO MUNDIAL

■ Isenções ■ Descontos



SEGUNDO CRITÉRIOS DO RESEARCH4LIFE

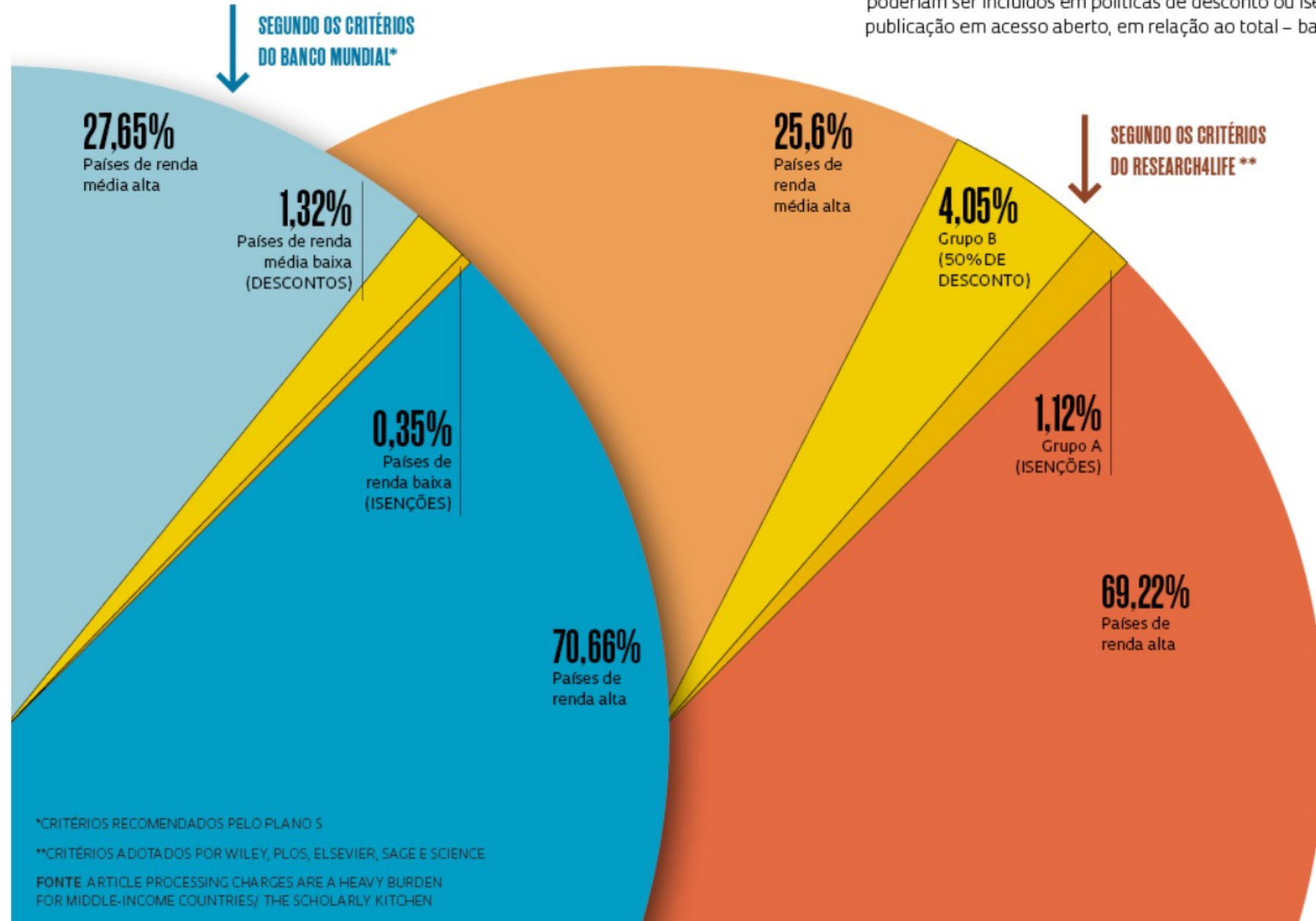
■ Isenções ■ Descontos



FONTE: ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGES ARE A HEAVY BURDEN FOR MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES / THE SCHOLARLY KITCHEN

# BENEVOLÊNCIA RESTRITA

Percentual de artigos científicos provenientes de países/territórios que poderiam ser incluídos em políticas de desconto ou isenção de taxas para publicação em acesso aberto, em relação ao total – base de dados Scopus



# Alguns pontos para discussão:

- Para os Pesquisadores:
  - Mudar nossa cultura editorial: preprints, green OA e periódicos acessíveis/gratuitos OA (Diamond OA), sempre que possível
  - Preferir periódicos com conselhos científicos e editoriais sólidos e ativos e ligados a sociedades científicas e universidades de classe mundial
  - Não pagar demais pelo acesso aberto
  - Evite as revistas que utilizam praticas editoriais predatórias:
    - existem com o único objetivo de lucro, não a divulgação de resultados de pesquisas de alta qualidade e promoção do conhecimento
    - Convidam você a pagar para publicar ou atuar como Guest Editor de numeros especiais para você convidar outras pessoas a pagar para publicar; Não tem conselho editorial ou falsos editores; Autores pagantes sempre terão seus papers aceitos; Os Fatores de Impacto destas revistas são artificialmente inflados com a exigência de inclusão de citações de artigos da mesma revista

# Alguns pontos para discussão:

## Para as Agencias, Universidades e Instituições de Pesquisa

- Repensar e revisar as atuais políticas de avaliação científica: valorizar a qualidade editorial da revista mais que nomes de marca ou fator de impacto (no Qualis p.ex)
- Agências deveriam ter políticas de monitoramento de revistas gold OA sem qualidade. Somente revistas com boa qualidade editorial devem ser incluídas nos acordos transformativos. A ABC se coloca à disposição para ajudar no processo de seleção das boas revistas.
- Agências deveriam ter políticas de incentivo ao green OA, como pre-prints e pós-prints.
- Não achamos recomendável que nenhuma agência nacional deva assinar o Plan S
- Negociar *subscribe to open* por preços equivalentes ao que já é pago pelas assinaturas com as editoras.
- Idealmente, evitar que agências estaduais assinem acordos de *subscribe to open* (apesar de algumas estarem pagando APCs atualmente) - perde-se o poder de barganha em menor número.
- Pensar em modos de atuação com outros países LA para melhorar preços dos acordos. Na RM23 da ABC o líder de Open Science da UNESCO se propôs a articular uma reunião com outros países da LA
- Apoiar o desenvolvimento das melhores revistas brasileiras para equipara-las em qualidade editorial às boas revistas internacionais, com acesso aberto via ScieLo



# Alguns pontos para discussão:

## Nas negociações dos Acordos Transformativos:

- Pressionar por transparência nos acordos de *subscribe to open* internacionais, para se balizar os preços aqui.
- Fazer campanha permanente para que APCs por pesquisadores individuais (sem *subscribe to open*) tenham desconto de pelo menos 50% para middle income economies, dentro por exemplo do Research4Life.
- Uma opção neste caso seria negociar para que os pesquisadores paguem APC em valor proporcional ao PIB per capita
- Assegurar que signatários do Research4Life cumpram com os descontos e waivers previstos (Springer Nature é um exemplo que não está cumprindo nem o atual).

Obrigado !

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