



Exploring collaborative non-commercial publishing models for Open Access:

Apply to perform a study

Deadline for applications: **24 April 2020**

cOAlition S wishes to commission an informed study containing an analysis and overview of collaborative non-commercial (aka “Diamond”) publishing journals and platforms. The objective is to identify ways to support publishing initiatives wishing to implement Diamond business models. The study is financially supported by Science Europe.

Background and rationale

Scholarly publishing is rapidly changing towards Open Access, thus ensuring that the results of publicly funded research are immediately made fully available to the widest possible audience. Science Europe is in support of a transition to Open Access as fast as possible. So far, cOAlition S is contributing to this transition by making sure that APCs paid to publishers are fair, equitable, transparently priced, sustainable within public economic frameworks and primarily paid by funders and libraries. However, contrary to typical ‘Gold’ Open Access business models of academic publishing, collaborative non-commercial and non-APC based Open Access business models – also known as ‘Diamond’ Open Access – do not usually rely on per-unit payments for publication services. Collaborative non-commercial models are here defined as not-for-profit journals and platforms that are owned by the research community and that publish peer-reviewed material that is free of charge for readers and authors.

Plan S Principle 5 states that “The Funders support the diversity of business models for Open Access journals and platforms.”. This raises the question of how Plan S funders can properly and equitably support non-

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commercial publishing models. Since collaborative non-commercial journals and platforms may be the only Open Access venues in s specific scientific areas, support for them also ties in to Principle 3, which states that "In cases where high-quality Open Access journals or platforms do not yet exist, the Funders will, in a coordinated way, provide incentives to establish and support them when appropriate."

Collaborative non-commercial initiatives are highly influential and significant in a number of disciplines or scientific fields and global regions. Some platforms such as Redalyc-Amelica or the Open Library of Humanities offer technically highly proficient solutions for researchers. These initiatives represent alternative business models for academic publishing worthy of further study.

While commercial publishers are easily identifiable and represented by trade organizations (IPA, AAP, STM, ALPSP, OASPA, etc.), collaborative non-commercial journals and platforms involve a large number of discipline-specific initiatives, including local and regional journals that are necessarily grouped in associations, therefore not so easy to identify. In addition, they normally do not receive the same levels of revenues as APC-based journals. Similarly, small (academic) presses may want to consider collaborative non-commercial business models.

Although many individual funders already support collaborative non-commercial initiatives, this is not yet done in a systematic and coordinated way.

Aim and objectives

In collaboration with cOAlition S, Science Europe wishes to commission an informed study containing an analysis and overview of collaborative non-commercial publishing journals and platforms. The objective is to identify ways to support publishing initiatives wishing to implement Diamond business models. The study should at least address the following objectives:

1. Provide an analysis of the global landscape of collaborative non-commercial journals and platforms, charting their variety, scope, and impact in various disciplines and regions, their scientific and editorial quality assurance practices, and the challenges they face.
2. Identify the extent to which authors and their collaborators do publish in non-APC Open Access journals and platforms, and trends over time
3. Identify the current funding models for collaborative non-commercial journals and platforms.
4. Identify scholarly publishing sectors where efficiency gains, collaboration, and training in terms of shared services or infrastructure are required.
5. Identify the main challenges faced by collaborative non-commercial journals and platforms in meeting the needs of Open Access policies and industry-standard operational and technical requirements and formulate recommendations to overcome these challenges.
6. Provide an action plan and recommendations for principles and funding mechanisms with agreed, equitable, transparent, efficient and effective ways for a range of actors to co-finance relevant collaborative non-commercial non-APC journals and platforms.

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Timeline

| Activity | Date |
|---|-----------------|
| Responses returned to cOAlition S by email | 24 April 2020 |
| Supplier appointed (contract for services signed) | 25 May 2020 |
| Study completed | 30 October 2020 |

Budget

A contract for up to **30 KEUR** (including VAT) will be issued to the appointed Provider by the European Science Foundation (ESF). Payments will be linked to the delivery of milestones, which will be agreed with the Provider.

Evaluation criteria

Offers will be assessed following four criteria:

- Understanding of project 25%
- Technical ability 25%
- Proposed approach 25%
- Value for money 25%

The offer receiving the highest mark will be considered for selection. It has to be noted that the European Science Foundation reserves the right not to award this contract if no suitable supplier(s) is identified.

Working with cOAlition S

The European Science Foundation hosts the cOAlition S office, therefore procurement and contractual processes are implemented by the ESF -following ESF's regulation- on behalf of the cOAlition S funders.

The appointed Provider will work with a group composed of the cOAlition S programme manager (ESF), the Open Access Champion and the representative of Science Europe.

Responding to this call

Providers who wish to respond to this invitation to tender should apply by email using the template provided below to info@coalition-s.org, no later than 24 April 2020.

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Exploring collaborative non-commercial publishing models for Open Access:

Response to the invitation to tender

To be sent by email to info@coalition-s.org no later than 24 April 2020

| Section 1: Contact Information | |
|--|--|
| Please provide contact details for the main contact for this project. | |
| Name of applicant or applicant organisation (henceforth 'applicant' for short) | |
| Name of contact person for applicant: | |
| Position: | |
| Address: | |
| Email: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Section 2: Other participants | |
| Please list any other individuals/organisations that will be participating in this project. | |
| | |
| I confirm that those named above have agreed to be involved as described below and are willing for their details to be included as part of this response | |

Section 3: Information about the applicant's activities

3.1 Provide a concise description of your core business or area of expertise.

Section 4: Relevant experience and skills

- Please provide a summary of the skills and experience that demonstrates your / your organisation's ability to carry out the study.
- List any other relevant studies you or your organisation have carried out (please include a link).

Response:

Section 5: Approach

Please explain your proposed approach for carrying out the study, including a timeline with milestones for the delivery.

Response:

Section 6: Project management and team composition

Please describe how this project will be managed and led. Please explain the roles of any other participants.

Response:

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Section 7: Budget and justification

Please provide a full breakdown of costs for the delivery of this work. This information can either be provided within the box below or in a separate spreadsheet attached to this response.

Response:

Section 8: References

Please provide contact details of two clients (existing or former) that cOAlition S can contact for references (recommended but not mandatory)

Reference 1

Reference 2:

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