

Status of Publish Services

Elsevier contract: Reading and Publishing service 2020-2024: overview January 1st 2020 – June 7th 2021.

By: Arjan Schalken, UKBsis. Used data source: Workflow report Elsevier send 7th of June 2021. Filter: articles with a submitting date of January 1st 2020 or later. Total amount of records: 5492

Overall conclusion

By further improving the open access workflow and converting some subscription journals to hybrid, the overall open access uptake is now at 95% of all publications. Actions to further increase this percentage are taken. The overall amount of open access published articles under the deal will likely increase from 4.500 in 2020 to around 6.000 articles this year.

Articles covered by the deal

a. 98% of the articles are published in a journal that is part of the publishing deal. The 2020 score was 97%, the contract KPI is 95%. Biggest impact on the increase is the 2020 change in status of 'parent' journals from subscription to hybrid.

b. Hybrid journals from Cell and Lancet cover most of the publications outside the deal. The consortium and Elsevier are starting up conversations about adding additional titles to the deal.

Open Access Uptake and CC-BY

c. Since 2020, 97% of all articles in an eligible journal are published open access. So $98\% \times 97\% = 95\%$ of all consortium articles are published OA as part of the deal. In February 2021 Elsevier started a pilot with UKB to further improve the OA uptake resulting in a 100% score over the last 3 months without the need for additional repair actions from the UKB libraries and researchers. The pilot still needs to be evaluated but looking at the success, the consortium finds it important to continue the new workflow setup.

d. Of the articles published in open access in 2021, 88% had a CC-BY license and 12% a more restricted CC-BY-NC-ND. In 2020 87% of the open access articles had a CC-BY license. However, NWO and ZonMW funded publications showed an increase in the usage of a compliant license from 93% to 97%.

e. Promotional access is still used for specific article types (commentaries, letters to the editor). In the course of 2021 Elsevier and the consortium will look at this construction and ambitions for 2022.

f. As a result of the fact that eligibility for the OA deal is related to date of submitting and until 2019 most journals were not part of a deal, a substantial amount of the 2020 publications were not eligible for open access. This amount lowers every month. As a result more and more articles are published open access under the current or previous deal: 1470 in the first five months of 2020, 2156 in the last five months of 2020 and 2419 in the first five months of 2021. This could lead to an overall amount of open access articles of around 6.000 in 2021 (overall score in 2020: 4500).

Final remark

g. The consortium received some signals from libraries that not all articles of eligible corresponding authors show up in the Elsevier reports. As a result open access can be missed without the opportunity to repair this. In investigated cases it seems that some authors don't finish Elsevier's OA workflow. At this moment Elsevier is working on a method to signal these issues but a fix will probably not be available before 2022. Another reason why a publication could be left out of the OA workflow is that the corresponding author is affiliated with several institutions, one or more not part of the consortium. If the author then uses that non-eligible institute, the article is not redirected to the OA workflow. This is ok when the work is primarily done for that institute but feedback from researchers suggests that in most cases the work was also done for an affiliated institution and that they just picked randomly one of the institutes they work for, not knowing the impact for eligibility. UKBsis is working on own UKB reports with 'missed OA workflow' articles to discuss additional repair solutions with Elsevier after the summer.