



# IREL principles for Open Access publisher agreements from 2020

Following the recent conclusion of the Strategic Review of the Irish Research e-Library (IREL), The IREL Steering Group have agreed the following principles for negotiating agreements with publishers from 2020.

## [The Five LIBER Open Access Principles:](#)

1. **Licensing and Open Access go Hand-in-Hand** – The world of subscription deals and APC-deals are closely linked. Nobody should pay for subscriptions and pay APCs at the same time ('double dipping'). Each new license agreed on should therefore contain conditions about both sides of the coin. Increased spending on APCs should result in proportionately lower spending on subscription fees.
2. **No Open Access, No Price Increase** – There is enough money in the system already. Libraries have paid annual price increases of up to 8% for years, supposedly to allow publishers to innovate. A key feature of innovation for the research community is that research outputs are freely available. Therefore if an agreement with publishers on Open Access cannot be reached in our contracts, future price increases should not be accepted.
3. **Transparency for Licensing Deals: No Non-Disclosure** – The practices of libraries should fully reflect their commitment to Open Access. Licensing agreements should therefore be openly available. Society will not accept confidential agreements paid for with public money in the form of non-disclosure agreements, as recent developments in Finland and The Netherlands have shown.
4. **Keep Access Sustainable** – To avoid putting more money in the system, and to strengthen Open Access, some libraries have given up their rights to perpetual access in

license agreement. Perpetual access is, however, critical in a quickly-changing publishing environment. Libraries must secure sustainable access to content.

5. **Usage Reports Should Include Open Access** – Although APC-buyouts are becoming more common, reporting about Open Access is still rare. Just as libraries receive reports about downloads and usage in the subscription world, they should also receive reports on Open Access publications. It is normal to receive insight into what we pay for.

In addition to the LIBER principles, IReL requires that:

1. Agreements should allow for OA publication across all of a publisher's titles, including all open access and hybrid titles.
2. Agreements should allow 100% of our members' accepted articles with the publisher to be OA.
3. As per the [Plan S guidelines](#), we require that "Authors or their institutions retain copyright to their publications. All publications must be published under an open license, preferably the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY), in order to fulfil the requirements defined by the Berlin Declaration"
4. Our agreements permit the use of licensed materials in scholarly text analysis and data mining activities for academic research and other educational purposes.

We look forward to working with publishers to negotiate such agreements from 2020.

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