



9 November 2017

Dear Colleagues,

The future of Open Science, though promising, is not certain.

In recent years, as Open Access and Open Science have gained momentum, a vital infrastructure of non-commercial services supporting and enabling OA and OS has evolved. But many of these services we've come to rely on are not financially stable.

If we are to continue moving toward a future of science and research that is truly open, this infrastructure must be secured. And we need your help securing it.

We, a group of international organisations committed to working toward this goal, have come together to form the [Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services](#) (SCOSS). Our mission is to provide a **coordinated, cost-sharing framework** to **secure the future of non-commercial services** that underpin the development of wider global Open Science.

Groundwork for SCOSS was laid by the Knowledge Exchange, which presented many of the foundational ideas in its 2016 report [Putting Down Roots, Securing the Future of Open Access Policies](#). Many organisations have helped to shape the coalition, including the Australasian Open Access Strategy Group ([AOASG](#)), The Confederation of Open Access Repositories ([COAR](#)), The Council of Australian University Librarians ([CAUL](#)), The European Research Council ([ERC](#)), The European University Association ([EUA](#)), [EIFL](#), The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions ([IFLA](#)), [LIBER](#), [Science Europe](#) and [SPARC Europe](#). Initial input was also provided by [SPARC \(US\)](#).

Our ultimate goal is an infrastructure of freely available Open Science services subsidised by policymakers and stakeholders that are committed to providing sustainable funding for the operation and development of key services.

To achieve this, the coalition will work to maintain a registry of organisations that comprise this vital infrastructure. These and other such organisations may apply via SCOSS for funding consideration; once vetted, eligible candidates will be put forward to the community.

Having spent the past several months in a pilot project evaluating the first candidates — Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and SHERPA/RoMEO — we are now presenting them to you for funding consideration. This is your opportunity to play an important role in helping secure the future of Open Science.

In our assessment of each candidate, we reviewed the data they provided regarding their technical competence, costs, details of governance, and future plans. Each made a strong case for the value of their service to various scholarly communications communities; and neither currently has long-term funding ensuring their viability.

Following are excerpts from each of their applications, describing their services:



### SHERPA/RoMEO

“Sherpa RoMEO is an online service that aggregates and analyses publisher open access policies from around the world and provides summaries of self-archiving permissions and conditions of rights given to authors on a journal-by-journal basis. The service is available free of charge at the point of use and is used worldwide as a respected and authoritative source for the interpretation of publishers' copyright transfer agreements (CTAs) as they relate to open access archiving.

Sherpa RoMEO is widely considered to be an essential part of the open access environment, in giving information and guidance to depositors who wish to make material available on an open access basis, whether in subject repositories, central archives, institutional repositories or otherwise.

Sherpa RoMEO serves the following stakeholder groups: Repository Managers and Administrators, Academic Authors and Researchers, Research Managers, Open Access Software Developers and Publishers.”

### DOAJ

“DOAJ is primarily (but not only) a list of peer-reviewed open access journals covering all disciplines and more than 50 languages. Journals are listed after a detailed evaluation based on the application form journals/publishers. DOAJ receives around 500 applications per month. The rejection rate is around 50%. Evaluation is free of charge, like all other DOAJ services. DOAJ provides as well article metadata (currently 70% of journals upload article metadata) for download/harvesting. Currently DOAJ lists nearly 9.400 journals and 2.500.000 article metadata records are available. The data DOAJ provide are harvested and downloaded with an API and integrated in all major discovery services, indexing databases etc.

DOAJ has become the reference point for good open access journals. DOAJ serves research funders, research managers, universities, libraries, researchers, students and the public as well as publishers. DOAJ is as well an important source for research in scholarly publishing.”

As an institution that relies on these services, we are asking that your institution consider becoming part of a voluntary endowment network supporting them. **You can do this by choosing to help support DOAJ and/or SHERPA/RoMEO.**

Should your organisation choose to become a part of this new network, the coalition has devised a flat fee funding structure to identify your funding category. For each of the services an organisation chooses to help support, the following would apply:

- Large organisations from high-income countries would contribute Euros 4000 annually for a period of 3 years
- Small organisations from high-income countries would contribute Euros 2000 annually for a period of 3 years
- Funders would contribute Euros 8000 annually for a period of 3 years
- For organisations from low and middle income countries and others with lower incomes it is suggested that they contribute 500 euros per year for 3 years.
- A 10% discount would be deducted for consortia of 10 organisations or more
- Organisations may choose between paying up front for 3 years or annually.
- Funding transactions will take place between the service provider and the funder, and not via SCOSS.



*Please note that numbers have been based on what the coalition estimates it can achieve to reach the targets of each service across the three years.*

For **DOAJ** the target is 970 000 euros.

For **Sherpa/RoMEO** the target is 1 529 935 euros

In subsequent years we may reduce the recommended fees based on how many contributors we have or based on the annual figures from each service.

Any organisations that cannot commit to the sums above but still wish to contribute, please contact SCOSS at [info@scoss.org](mailto:info@scoss.org).

**If you are ready to take an initial step toward becoming a supporting member of the SCOSS funding network, to help fund DOAJ and/or SHERPA/RoMEO, please contact:**

**Azhar Hussain for SHERPA/RoMEO ([azhar.hussain@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:azhar.hussain@jisc.ac.uk))**

**Lars Bjørnshauge for DOAJ ([lars@doaj.org](mailto:lars@doaj.org))**

The support of organisations like yours is vital in securing a future for Open Science that is truly open.

Best regards,

Vanessa Proudman, Director of SPARC Europe, on behalf of the SCOSS Coalition

**CAUL** - Council of Australian University Librarians

**EIFL** - Electronic Information for Libraries

**LIBER** - Association of European Research Libraries

**SPARC Europe**

