Why did Sweden cancel with Elsevier?

ALPSP Annual Conference
Wilhelm Widmark
Stockholm University
Transition to Open Access in Sweden

“The goal is that a transition to open access to research results, including scientific publications, artistic works and research data, should be fully implemented in a ten-year perspective.”

(The Swedish Research Bill, Knowledge in Collaboration 2016/17:50)
Government Directive for Open Access

• **The National Library of Sweden** –
  National coordinating body in Open Access to scholarly publications
  - Open Access Advisory Group
  - National working groups OA

• **Swedish Research Council** –
  National coordinating body in Open Access to Research Data
  - National Reference Group

• Two parallel assignments for OA to publicly funded scientific publications and research data - compliant to FAIR principles.
  Report to Ministry of Education in February, 2019
Open Science as a practise

“Stockholm University advocates the availability of its research and research results through a research and education environment that promotes, encourages and informs about open science as a practice”
Cancellation with Elsevier

2018-09-13 / Wilhelm Widmark, Stockholm University
Stockholm University gives researchers more support to get published in full Open Access journals

The money that Stockholm University saves at the cancelled agreement with large science publisher Elsevier will be used to publish research in full Open Access journals.

Sweden’s research libraries have, through the national consortium Bibsam, terminated its agreement with Elsevier as of 1st of July. The reason why is that the parties could not agree on a reasonable price model and a sustainable solution for a transition towards open science.

According to Stockholm University, the transition to open science is slow and the publishing in hybrid journals, where you publish separate articles Open Access in an otherwise subscription-based journal, does not urge the development quickly enough.

Stockholm University will therefore use the money deposited on the terminated agreement to support those of the university’s researchers who want to get published in full Open Access journals. According to the university, publishing in full Open Access journals with all publishers help to urge the development towards a sustainable transition to open science.

If you as a researcher at Stockholm University wish to have your APC for your accepted article in a full Open Access journal paid for centrally, please contact the

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Reactions from researchers

• “Elsevier is trying to push Bibsam to come to an agreement by sending directed messages to Swedish researchers through their webpage, offering to send messages to Bibsam about the inaccessability to their journals through a form, I just want to express my support for the decision to not accept Elsevier's subscription terms.”

• “I would like to state that, even though this may create some problems for my own research work, I fully support Bibsam's cancellation of the agreement with Elsevier. I hope Bibsam will continue to stand up for open, transparent and affordable publication of research articles.”
Why did Sweden cancel its agreement with Elsevier? (Wilhelm Widmark)