Transitional Agreements

Transitional Agreements (TAs) enable publishers to offer both read subscription access and open access (OA) publishing in a single agreement, typically either as a ‘Read-and-Publish’ agreement or ‘Publish-and-Read’. These agreements are transitional in nature, converting existing subscription expenditure to support immediate OA publishing, with continued access to read paywalled content. These agreements are designed to be a temporary step in a publisher’s transition to full open access.

**Read-and-Publish**

Institutions pay one fee to read paywalled content and to enable their authors to publish OA in a journal or group of journals. Typically, the “read” element of the fee is based on current subscription spend and the “publish” element of the fee is based on recent Article Processing Charge (APC) spend, recent published output, or waived entirely.

**Publish-and-Read**

An agreement wherein a publisher receives payment for OA publishing, with read access included at no additional cost. The fee can be fixed based on historic output multiplied by a notional APC or calculated over the agreement period by multiplying actual articles published by the notional APC.

**Transitional Agreement process**

**Before**
- Library pays for read-only journal subscriptions
- Author, institution or funder pays individually to publish open access articles

**After**
- Transitional Agreement covers both ‘read’ access to paywalled content and unlimited OA publishing

**Benefits of Transitional Agreements**

**For publishers:**
- Opportunity to embrace and prepare for an OA future.
- Attractive to both new and existing customers.
- Simplicity - single all-in agreement with central invoicing direct to institutions/consortia.
- Compliance with funder OA mandates (cOAlition S, UKRI, Wellcome, NIHR).

**For institutions:**
- Cost constraints/cost neutrality for libraries.
- Simple compliance with funder OA policies.
- Reduced administration of individual APC payments.
- Equitable and increased levels of OA publishing for all.

**Examples of Transitional Agreements:**

- Cambridge University Press (CUP) Read and Publish 2021-24
- Microbiology Society Publish & Read Transitional Agreement 2023-2024

More guides in this series are available: [https://ji.sc/UKRI-for-publishers](https://ji.sc/UKRI-for-publishers)
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