

13 April 2016 – Chloé Gay-Balmaz

What if Swiss researchers published only in open access mode?

A study jointly financed by the SNSF and swissuniversities is currently developing open access scenarios for scientific publishing in Switzerland. The study is in keeping with the SNSF's commitment to open access and will contribute to the debate over a national open access strategy for Switzerland.

Would the money currently spent on scientific publishing be sufficient to finance a system that operates solely on the basis of open access? Would the licensing fees that university libraries currently pay to publishers be enough to finance open access across the board? How could the publishing system in Switzerland be turned into an open access system? These questions are the focus of a study on the "Financial flow analysis of scientific publishing in Switzerland", jointly commissioned by the SNSF and the swissuniversities programme "Scientific information: Accessing, processing and saving" (SUC P-2).

The mandate was awarded to Cambridge Economic Policy Associates (CEPA), in collaboration with Professor John Houghton, Melbourne. In the first part of the study, CEPA will establish who the relevant players are and how much public money is currently flowing into scientific publishing in Switzerland. In addition, The Max Planck Digital Library (MPDL) is providing data obtained through bibliometric analysis. A cost estimate and possible scenarios for transition will be developed in the second part.

In late 2015 swissuniversities accepted the mandate from the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) to develop a national open access strategy for higher education institutions together with the SNSF. The financial flow analysis is all the more important against this backdrop. swissuniversities and the SNSF expect the study to produce data and facts that are relevant to the discussion and implementation of a national strategy. The study results are expected at the end of 2016.

For more information:

- ❖ The programme "Scientific information: Accessing, processing and saving" is initiating collaboration projects between libraries, IT services and scientific IT with a view to establishing nationwide services for the digital processing of scientific information. swissuniversities is responsible for conducting the programme (<http://www.swissuniversities.ch/isci>).
- ❖ In a letter dated 4 December 2015, the SERI requested swissuniversities to develop a national open access strategy together with the SNSF (http://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/Dokumente/DE/UH/SUK_P-2/151204_Brief_SBFI_OA_nationale_Strategie_Swissuniversities_sign.pdf).