

Elsevier's response to The Norwegian Directorate for ICT and Shared Services in Higher Education and Research (UNIT)'s decision to not renew their agreement with Elsevier

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While Elsevier is working hard to accommodate the desire of some for an author-pays-to-publish (open access) world, the reality is that current author choices mean that 85 percent of journal articles globally are published under the reader-pays (subscription) model, where authors publish for free. It's possible to come up with a negotiated agreement at reasonable costs, and Elsevier offered Norway multiple low-cost options for a rapid transition to gold open access publishing, but open access is a service that has to be funded in some form. Norway is essentially asking to receive two services for the price of one.

Elsevier remains open to restarting constructive talks to help and support Norway's transition to open access. UNIT's decision to discontinue access to Elsevier's latest high-quality content is unfortunate for everyone, particularly researchers, especially as Elsevier cannot continue service indefinitely without being paid. We will continue to seek an agreement with UNIT directly and by communicating with the research community.