

The Pitfalls and Unintended Consequences of Plan S —A Perspective from Non-Plan S Countries

Prof. Dr. Miho Funamori, Information and Society Research Division, Research Center for Open Science and Data Platform at the National Institute of Informatics, Japan

Plan S is an initiative of mostly research funders with the aim for making full and immediate Open Access to research publications a reality. It perceives the publication paywalls as the major barrier to this aim and tries to establish proper functioning science system fit to digital age. It is run by 28 research funders with national funders being mostly from European continent.

With all its good intentions, Plan S was very responsive to all opinions raised. However, most opinions came from stakeholders directly affected, i.e. mainly from Europe. Most countries whose funders didn't decide for Plan S, hereinafter the non-Plan S countries, didn't express any opinion; in most cases, these countries didn't know what effect Plan S would have on their country and couldn't judge on Plan S.

Now, Plan S being in effect since January 2021, we are gradually seeing how Plan S is affecting the non-Plan S countries. Although it is still too early to tell, this presentation tries to point out some emerging issues Plan S is causing.