

## Introducing of the SCOAP<sub>3</sub> Programme

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***Abstract:** In this paper I would like to present the scope, short history and the future plans of the SCOAP<sub>3</sub> Programme (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics). It has been founded to create a new way for sponsoring the publication of the core journals in the field of High Energy Physics (HEP). The CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) has gathered research institutions and libraries together from all around the world, to bring a consortium together for this purpose. These institutions - which today purchase the core journals' subscriptions of this field – are tending to grant the funds for the publishing instead. Also the current publishers are involved, and according to their and CERN's calculations, an annual budget has been estimated, to cover financial needs of the OA publishing. This amount is sensibly lower than the global costs of subscriptions to HEP journals nowadays.*

**Keywords:** open access, consortium, publishing, financing, particle physics

### **Aim of the initiative**

The original goal of the Open Access (OA) publishing is to grant unrestricted access to the results of the government-funded researches, which is in contrast with the current models of scientific – and for-profit – publishing. The access now is limited for the users – they have to buy this access somehow to these information. At the same time, the costs increase year by year, and put considerable pressure on libraries, or any other purchasers, forcing them to choose among an increasing number of journals subscriptions. When the idea of OA was born, two major solutions came up – the Green and the Gold OA. The Green is based on the totally free publishing, since the Gold requires financing from the author – or anyone – for the publication. Green OA is already “taking place” in institutional or national repositories, while Gold OA has been introduced by the publishers widely.

This situation has become really serious in scientific fields like High-Energy Physics (HEP), where the pre-prints of the scientific results are timely available online. There has been a growing fright within the academic community that the future of high-ranked journals, and the peer-review system they administer, is at a seriously dangerous edge.

To handle this situation for HEP, and as an experiment, science at large, CERN has founded a team to renew the existing publishing model, and for a new OA publishing method, started the SCOAP<sub>3</sub> (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) Programme. In this model, HEP research institutions and the involved libraries – which today purchase journal subscription, and directly support the peer-review system – shall finance the OA together. Within this framework, they join forces to explicitly cover the costs, while publishers turn the electronic versions of their journals free to reach. And so, in contrast of the Gold OA, authors are not charged to publish their articles! Still the previous subscribers – libraries, institutions – finance the system, but the costs are considerably lower for them.

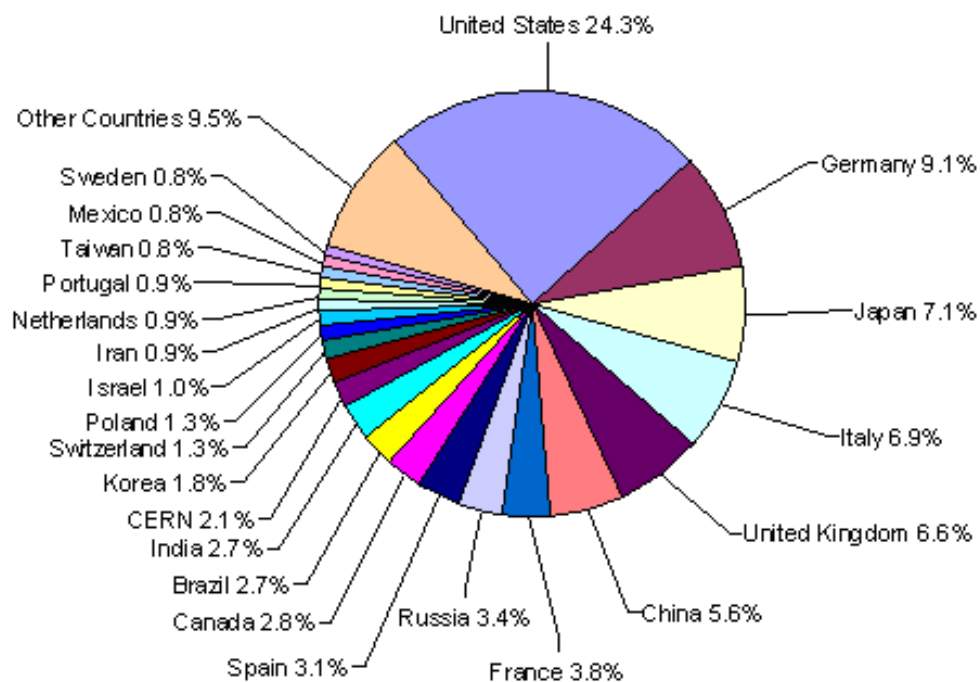
### **The system a glance**

SCOAP<sub>3</sub> while once connect quality and good pricing, and stimulating competition, on the other hand produces considerable medium- and long-term savings for the previous subscribers. Today, the publishers estimate the price of an article in the range of 1'000–2'000 EUR in the Gold OA. Based on this, the CERN's working group has calculated an annual

budget for the total programme, to ensure the transition of HEP publishing into OA. The budget would be around a maximum of 10 Million EUR/year in the next 3 years, which amount is clearly lower than the global costs of the subscription to HEP journals.

The cost-share of the member countries depend on their publication share in the HEP core journals. Each SCOAP3 partner shall finance its own contribution, but not to cancel its traditional journal subscriptions. Or the subscription price shall be lowered by the amount of the SCOAP3-share, or the publisher reduce this amount later, if the subscription is already ongoing.

Distribution of HEP articles by country – plot, average 2005-2006



The transition to OA will be easy as the most articles of HEP publishing are focused only in 10 peer-reviewed journals. Of course, this model is open to any, present or future, high-quality journals in this field, helping the active market with competition and a broader choice. The member institutions (countries) are currently signing an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with CERN, assuring the financial backing of the programme. A tendering procedure has been done already by CERN, and the SCOAP3 funding partners are ready to engage in long-term commitments. The publishers were, and still are at the table, deeply in the negotiations. Each countries coordinate with the publishers directly.

### The Member Institutions

Libraries, institutions from all around the world, from more than 26 countries are the members of the consortium. They are together the Forum, which is mostly a virtual surface to change ideas and information. The countries have National Contact Points, (NCP) who connect the CERN with the members. They together are the Governing Council. From themselves, the NCP's elect the Executive Committee, which is in charge, to implement the common decisions. CERN, as the trigger of the initiative, acts as the financial centre and

Consortium Manager for the whole programme.

The member countries are right now: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Korea, The Netherlands, Spain, South Africa, Turkey. By the end of 2013, all of them shall sign the MoU, and receive the invoice from CERN covering each contribution.

### **The Publishers**

When the programme has started, there were seven publishing houses involved: Springer, Elsevier, the American Physical Society (APS) and the Institute of Physics (IoP), and the Hindawi, Oxford University Press and Jagiellonian University.

These companies and institutions provide subscriptions for the 12 most important titles in HEP today. These are: Journal of High Energy Physics, European Physical Journal C (Springer), Nuclear Physics B, Physics Letters B (Elsevier), Chinese Physics C, Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics (IoP), and the Physical Review C, Physical Review D (APS), and also four other titles, which are already OA: Advances in High Energy Physics (Hindawi), New Journal of Physics (Institute of Physics Publishing/Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft), Acta Physica Polonica B (Jagiellonian University), Progress of Theoretical and Experimental Physics (Oxford University Press/Physical Society of Japan). During the summer of 2013, the APS has decided to leave the programme, causing a serious uncertainty about the whole process, as the two journals from this publisher contain approximately the 50% of the HEP articles. Finally the members decided to maintain the consortium, and divide the base amount by two.

### **The Process**

The CERN has compared the origins of the authors – articles of the eight selected journals, and by these results, shared out the annual amount among the countries by their shares. This way each country's contribution has been defined. This amount has been divided by two lately, because of the leaving of the APS. Meanwhile, CERN has finished the tendering process, and agreed about the bases of the programme with the publishers.

The next step was the reconciliation, where the NCP's have collected the information from the institutions, which titles would they subscribe from 2014, and for which amount. The NCP's and the publishers cross-checked the list prices with the actual subscriptions, and agreed on the reduction amounts. If at this time, the contracts between the institutions and the publishers for 2014 were already signed, the publishers will have to allocate the money later by the year. If the contract was not yet signed, the amount had to be deducted in advance from the subscription price. Both scenarios seem illogical, if we talk about OA titles, but as in most cases these HEP journals are available in packages, the other titles must be purchased. In the case of IoP, not all the journals covers HEP-topics.

Finally, the NCP's coordinate the signing of the MoU between their country and CERN, which should be done by the end of 2013. And from the 1st of January, 2014, all titles become OA.

### **Actualities for Hungary at the end of 2013**

For Hungary, right now we are in the end of the reconciliation negotiation with the publishers. Springer and IoP have already submitted its numbers, and we have accepted them. With the third publisher Elsevier, we have been informed about due to our new subscription method Access-only, we will be excluded from these titles reconciliation. As far as CERN and us both had concerns about this, we were trying to find some third-way solution about it. Finally, we have agreed on a reasonable reduction amount in the package price to balance the country's commitment.

### **The CERN Repository**

From the 1st of January, 2014, all the 6 titles will be OA. The members finance the publishers' costs, to make it possible. CERN also created a Repository, accessible on it's homepage. Articles funded by SCOAP3 will be uploaded by the participating publishers, or CERN into the Repository. The scope of the Repository is neither to duplicate arXiv or the publisher platforms, not even to offer value-added services such as INSPIRE. It is much more a staging platform, for further distribution of information. The Repository will provide access to the full-text of all articles published under SCOAP3 in different formats, like PDF, and XML. Articles are published under a CC-BY license and can be further disseminated. The Repository will also make available the corresponding metadata, under a CC0 license. Metadata will include the article DOIs and the ORCID IDs of all authors, when available. Both the NCP's and CERN hopes, the example of SCOAP3 could be rapidly followed on other fields, first on those, which are directly related to HEP, such as nuclear physics or astroparticle physics, and later in similar way, in any other science fields.

### **References**

All information used in the paper are from the <http://scoap3.org>, and information has been retrieved from the SCOAP3 National Contact Point's meetings.