The evolving ecosystem of scholarly publishing in South Africa confronting emerging realities.

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Commitments to OA

The Academy has produced two reports on scholarly publishing: 1st 2006 and the 2nd 2019 both advocating OA and establishing mechanism for implementation.

Statement on Open Access to Research Publications from the National Research Foundation (NRF)-Funded Research

Established the *African Open Science Platform* and released Open Science concept document in December 2019.

Launched “AAS Open Science” and ‘registered support for Plan-S of the European Commission.”
South African Funding Landscape

Department of Higher Education - Research output sub-block grant which provides funding for research publications.

HEIs receive funding from DHET to fund library acquisitions and may provide APC funding.

Main funding agency for supporting research activities and encourages OA of research publications & archiving of results

Multiple research supporters - Welcome Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, EU funding, US foundations, Chinese and Japanese bilateral agreements, etc. Some signatories to Plan S
Establishment of a set of interacting entities:

- **NSEF** - national scholarly editors forum for all editors of South African Journals - Establish codes of conduct and serves as a platform for influencing policy

- **NSBPF** - national scholarly book publishers forum for discussion of matters affecting book publishing and influencing policy

- **Journal peer-review mechanism** - Managed on behalf of DHET to consider whether journals should be recognised as scholarly and whether they should be placed on SciELO SA.
Entities in Scholarly Journal Publishing Landscape

SANLIC

The South Africa National Library and Information Consortium - responsible for negotiating ‘big deals’ with major commercial publishers - going for ‘transformative agreements’.

Sabinet

Provider of library services, information services and digitisation of material. Major provider of paywall material to South African libraries and services to scholarly journals in SA.

AOSIS

Publisher of open access journals, books and conference proceedings in South Africa.

NISC

Publisher of premier African scholarly research products that promote African scholarship to a global academic audience through print and digital publication. Partner with AJOL, Taylor & Francis and EBSCO host.
Entities in Scholarly Book Publishing Landscape

UNISA: Local publisher of scholarly journals and books some in collaboration with Taylor & Francis.

Wits University Press: Publisher of books for the academic community and for the general reader.

IU KZN Press: Quality publisher of scholarship and general expertise books for both academic and general readers.

HSRC Press: Publisher of open access books and research council in South Africa.
Entities in Journal Publishing Landscape

ASSAf

Publishers of the OA journal *South African Journal of Science - Diamond OA* free to read and free to publish.

Open journal platform managed by ASSAf. 7 journals

Learned Society Journals - ± 250 titles -mostly subscription based, with charge page charges, some hybrid and some OA with APCs. This is a diverse group that is grappling with their future strategy.

AOSIS & NISC
Publishers of open access journals, books and conference proceedings in South Africa servicing some of the learned Society journals.
Performance of OA Publishing Landscape

Robinson- Garcia et al.  
Indicators of Open Access for universities.  
Proc ISSI2019 -paper 2
Performance of Institutions

Robinson-Garcia et al.
Indicators of Open Access for universities.
Proc ISSI2019 - paper 2
Conclusions

1 - South African Institutions have made a commitment to OA
2 - Open Science of which OA is a component, is a policy of Government and its funding agencies
3 - Transition from the current system of publication to OA is poorly defined - relationship with commercial publishers unresolved
4 - Funding for the production of OA scholarly books under discussion
5 - Some of the components of the landscape are “OA ready” but others face major challenges to their business models
6 - There is a need to undertake a thorough review of the this landscape and its potential funding sources to ensure that scholarly publishing remains viable for individuals and institutions
Acknowledgements