

Open Access Publishing, Opportunities for African Languages

The South African National Library and Information Consortium
presentation to COPAL

How is research communicated?

Back in the day

- **1323:** Compagnie du Gai Sçavoir, the oldest learned society on record, is founded in Toulouse, France.
- 1660: The Royal Society of London is founded.
- 1665: First journals - Journal des sçavans and Philosophical Transactions, were launched.
- Publishing was not a commercial enterprise but a way for learned societies to share knowledge and connect scholars.
- Paper journal.

Post WWII (fake news)

- 1945: Elsevier
- 1945 – 1970: commercial publishers
- Mid-90s: move to digital, online publishing.
- Journal subscription inflation
- Serials crisis
- Who owns the research?
- Open access movement.
- Research assessment
- Predatory publishing.
- Transformative agreements

Publishing models and deals

Journal Type / Article Type

- Subscription only / Closed
- Hybrid (Closed and OA)
- Fully Open
 - Gold (APC)
 - Diamond
- Green OA

Deals

- Subscription (read access)
- Publish
- Read and Publish
- S2O (subscribe to open)
- Pay to publish only

About SANLiC

In 2024 SANLiC members participated in 1 273 SANLiC-negotiated subscriptions across 53 deals with 47 publishers. The total list price for all subscriptions was R11 161 244 621 and yet the total consortium price paid by members was R889 276 067. This translates to a cost avoidance of 92% or R10 271 968 554.

In addition to the subscription cost avoidance, consortium members collectively enjoyed a further R302 652 921 cost avoidance on publishing services across 5 853 open access articles.

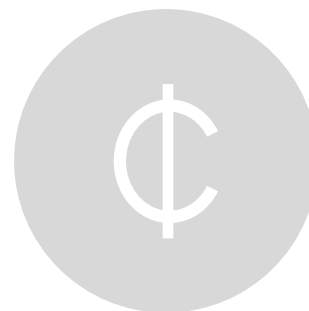
Read and Publish Agreement Broad Objectives



READ ACCESS.



ABILITY TO PUBLISH
OPEN ACCESS.



CONTAINMENT OR
REDUCE COST.



INCLUSIVITY AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE.

Cost Avoidance

- This refers to the difference, in monetary terms, between the market value of the product and the negotiated price that is actually paid.
- A further benefit of consortium negotiations is that the annual price increases (measured as percentages) are lower than the publishers' regular annual increases.

Cost avoidance in read and publish agreements

- Open access publishing services are included in the deal for the same pricing as if only paying for reading services.
- This means that researchers affiliated to subscribing institutions are able to publish full and immediate open access under the agreement without incurring any further or author facing charges (usually know as article processing charges or APCs).
- In certain agreements a discount is negotiated on the APCs in fully open journals.
- SANLiC uses the APC that would have been paid for each article(or the discount where applicable) to calculate additional cost avoidance achieved on the publishing services.

Foreign Currency Deals

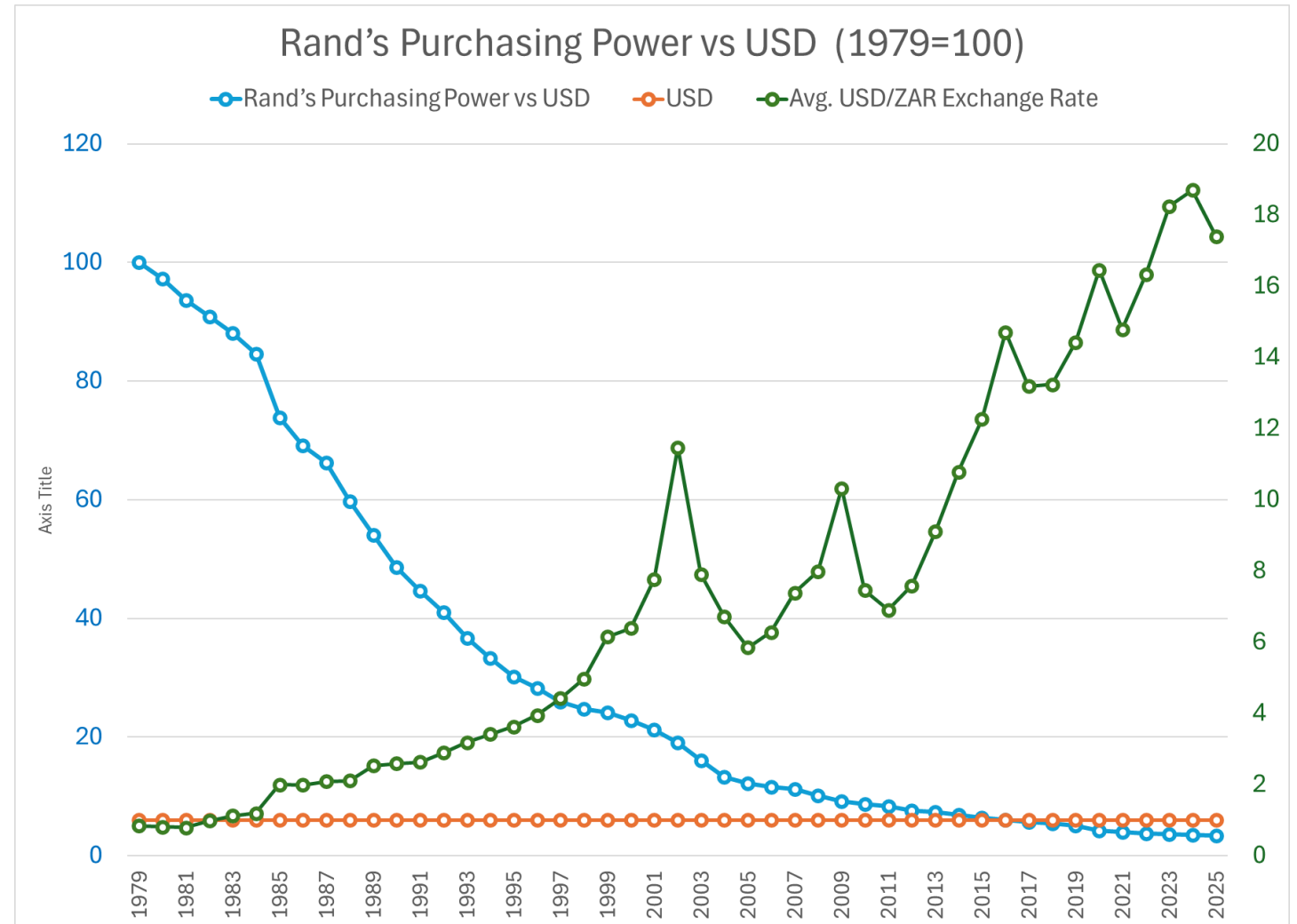


Purchasing Power Parity

Over 45+ years, the Rand has lost more than 95% of its value versus the US dollar in purchasing power terms.

Calculated with South Africa CPI from OECD, World Bank, and Stats SA matched against US CPI (Bureau of Labor Statistics), normalized to 1979=100 for rands/USD

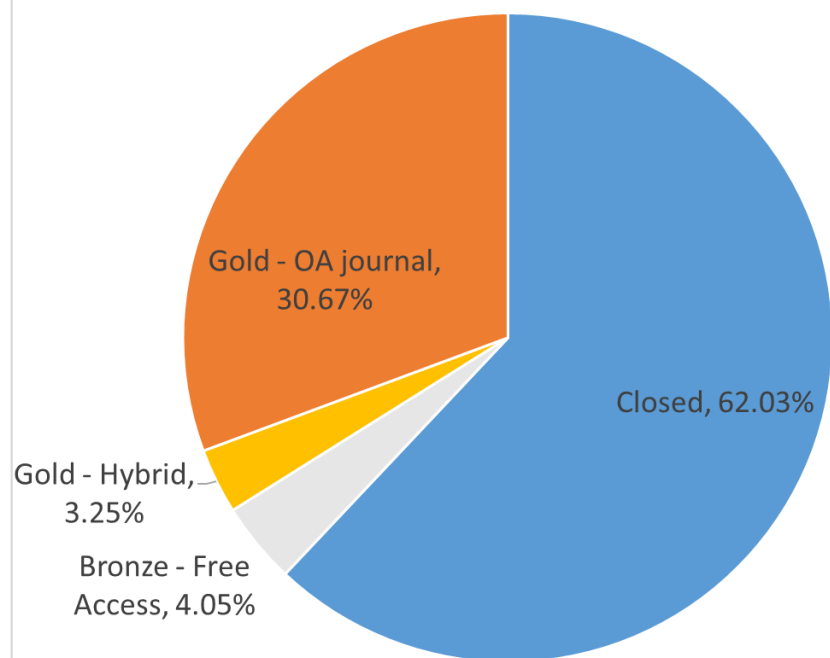
(produced using Copilot AI)



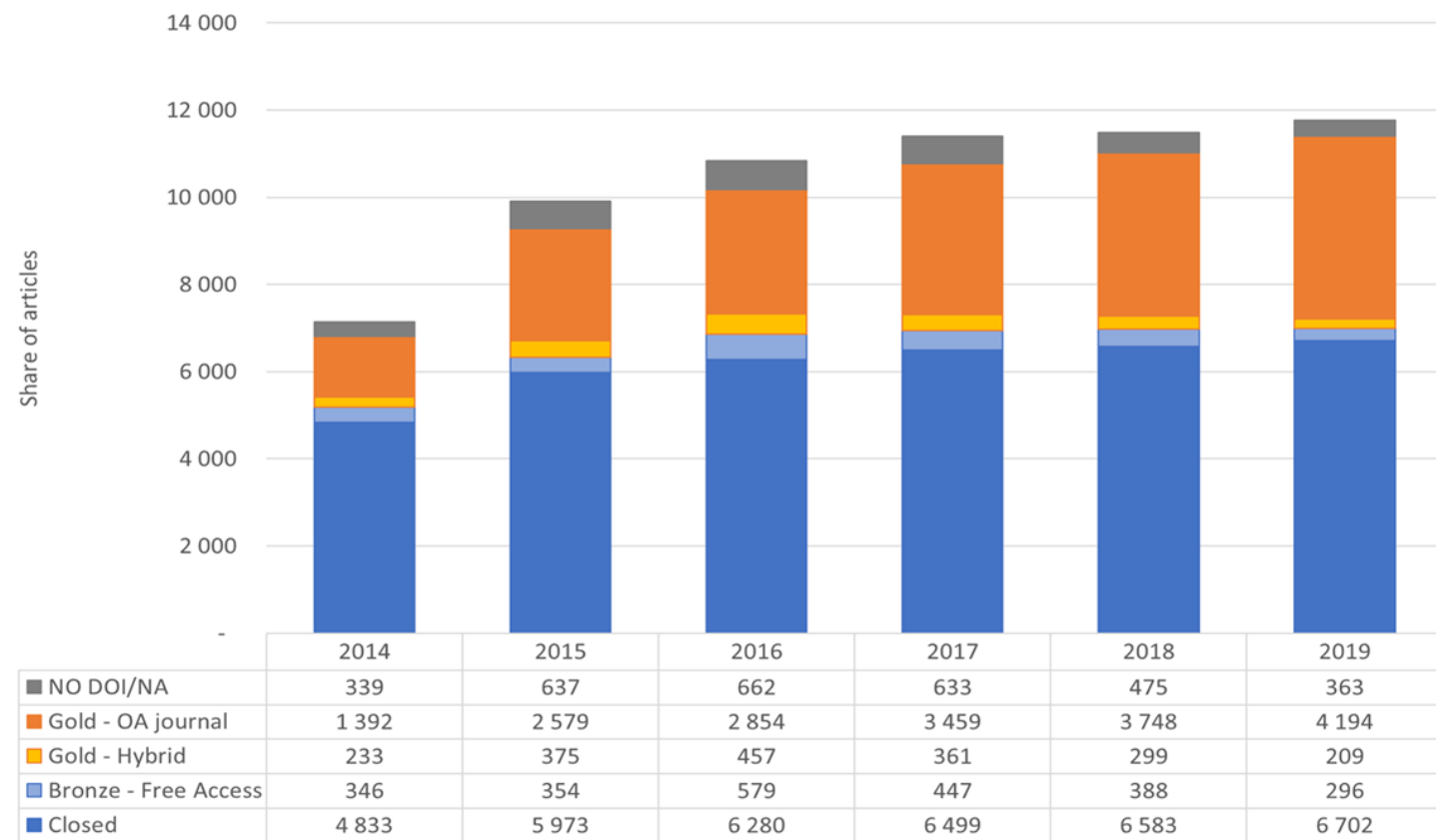
SANLiC SA Research Output Data Analysis

South African 2014 - 2019 corresponding authorship by OA status

Total Article Share (2014 - 2019)

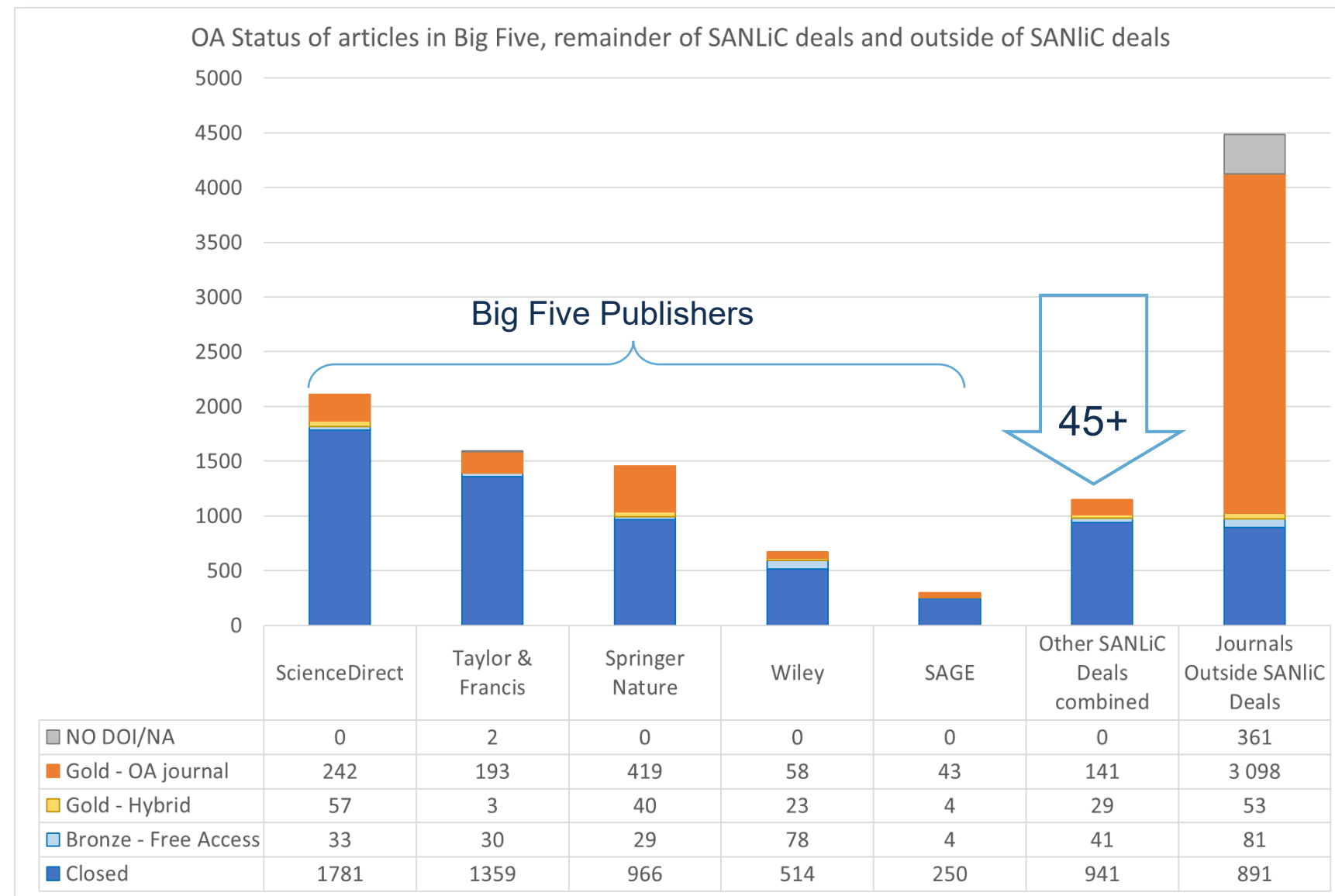


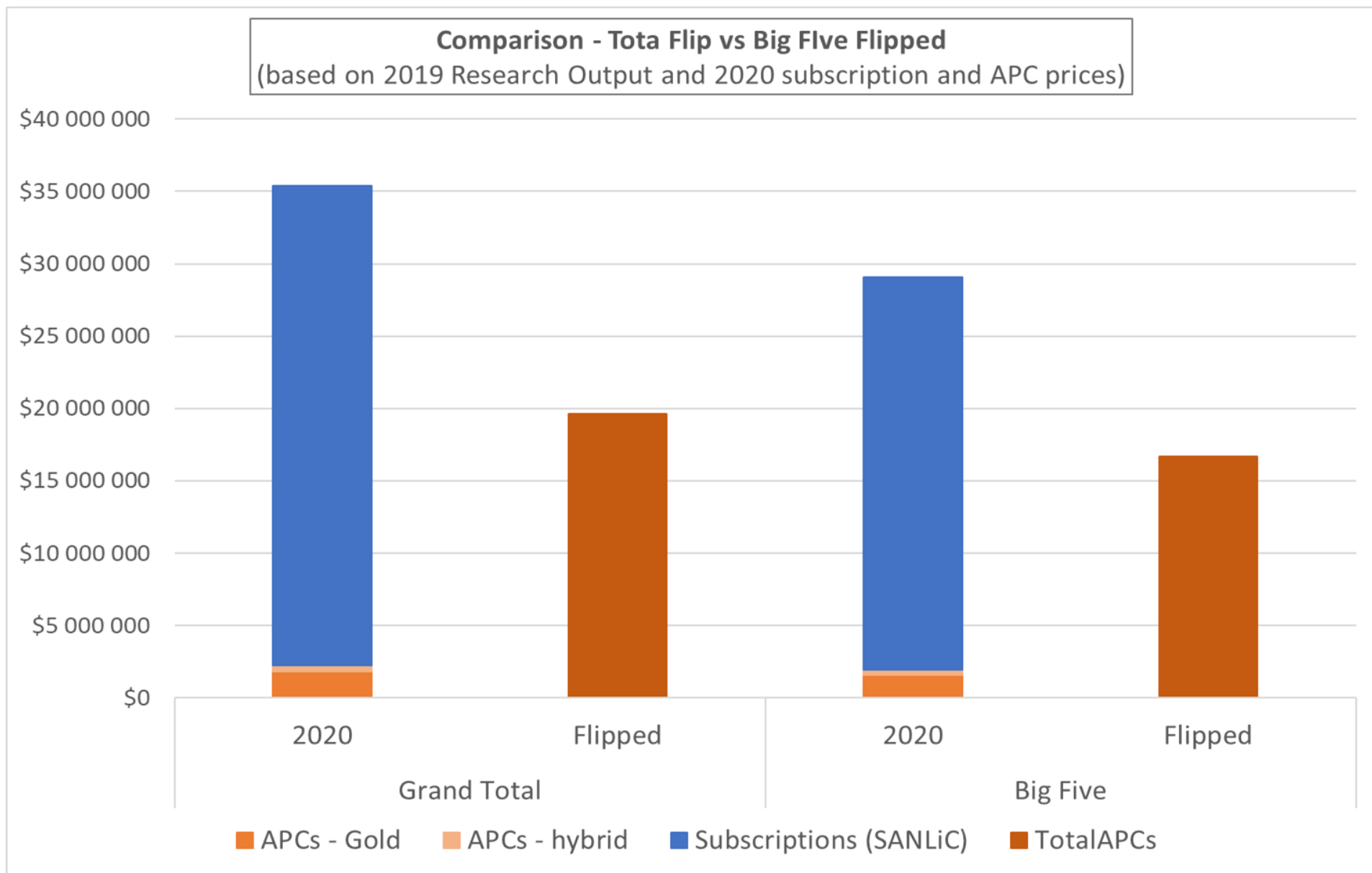
Combined research output trend



Where & how South Africa publishes

2019
corresponding
authorship articles
only by OA status



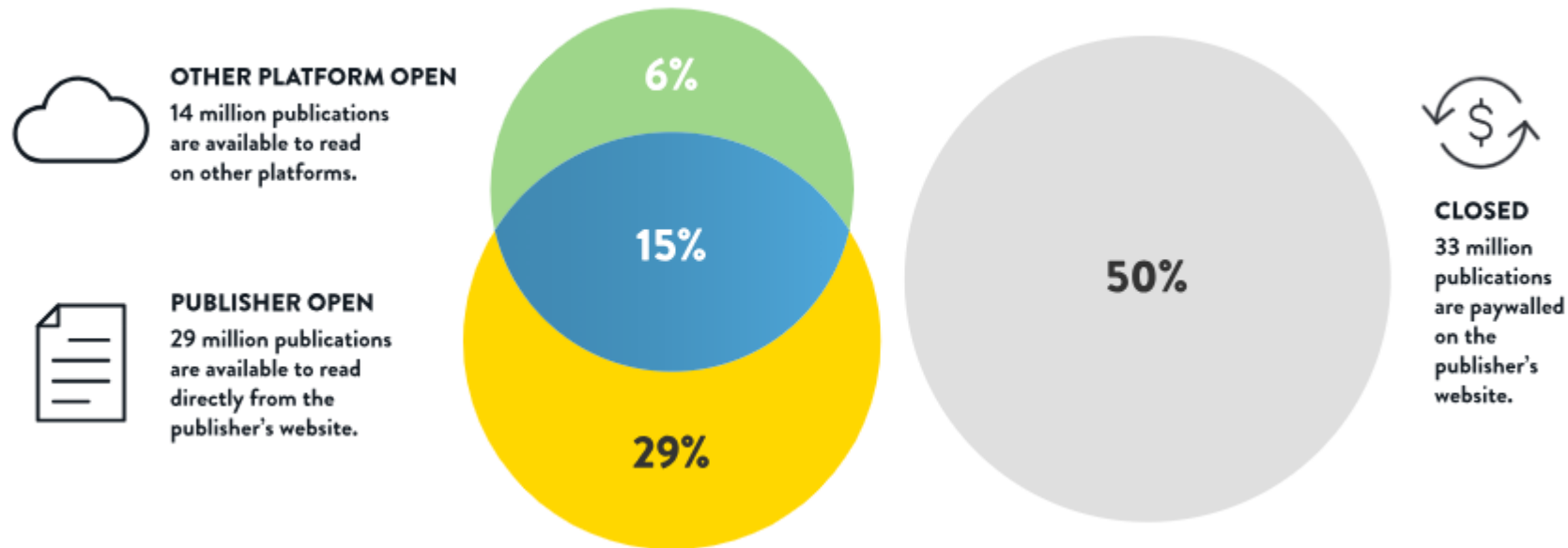


What is open access publishing?

- A response to the serials crisis and publisher monopolies
- Aims to empower researchers to retain ownership of their intellectual property rights and make their work available to a much wider audience, including practitioners in the field, public policy makers, and the general public.
- Open access and wider dissemination practices ensures that good science is not locked behind a paywall, accessible only by a minority of readers.

COKI (Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative)

OUT OF 66 MILLION PUBLICATIONS* FROM 2010 TO 2024

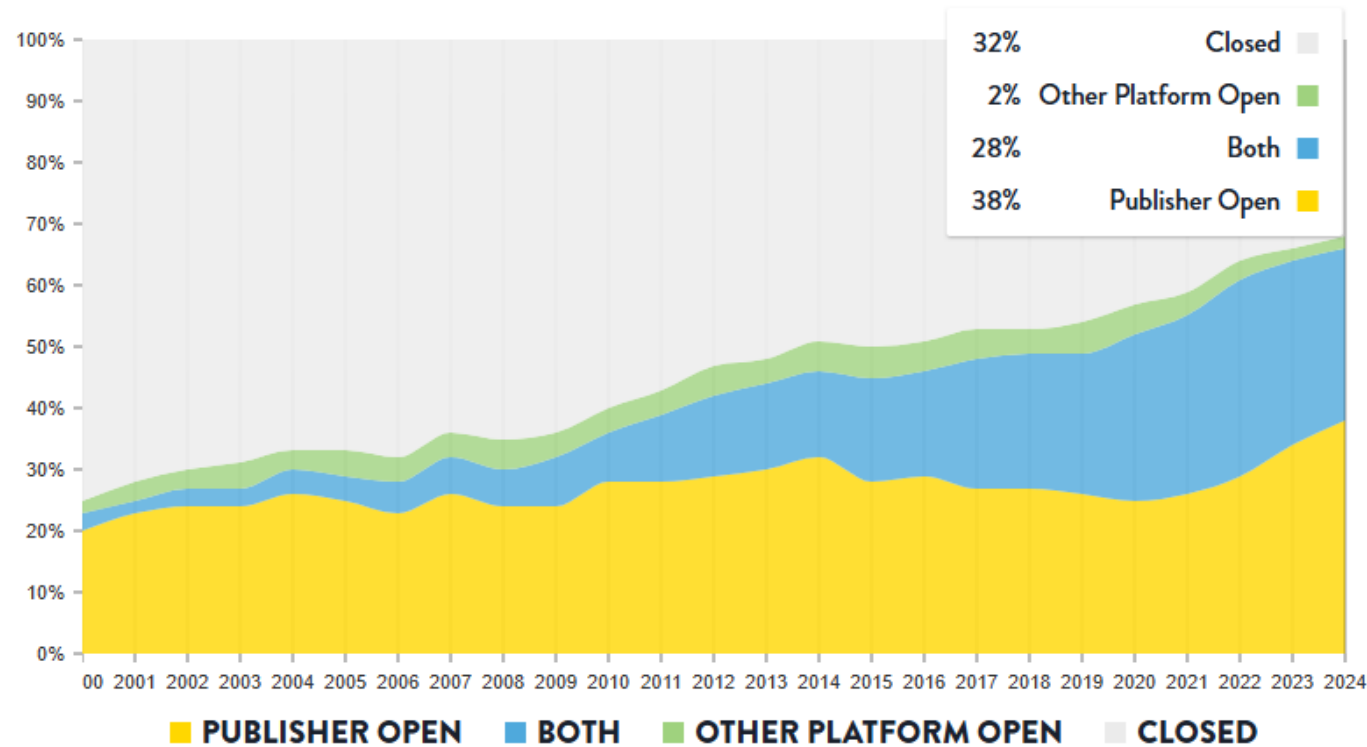


*Journal articles and conference papers

<https://open.coki.ac/open/>

South Africa

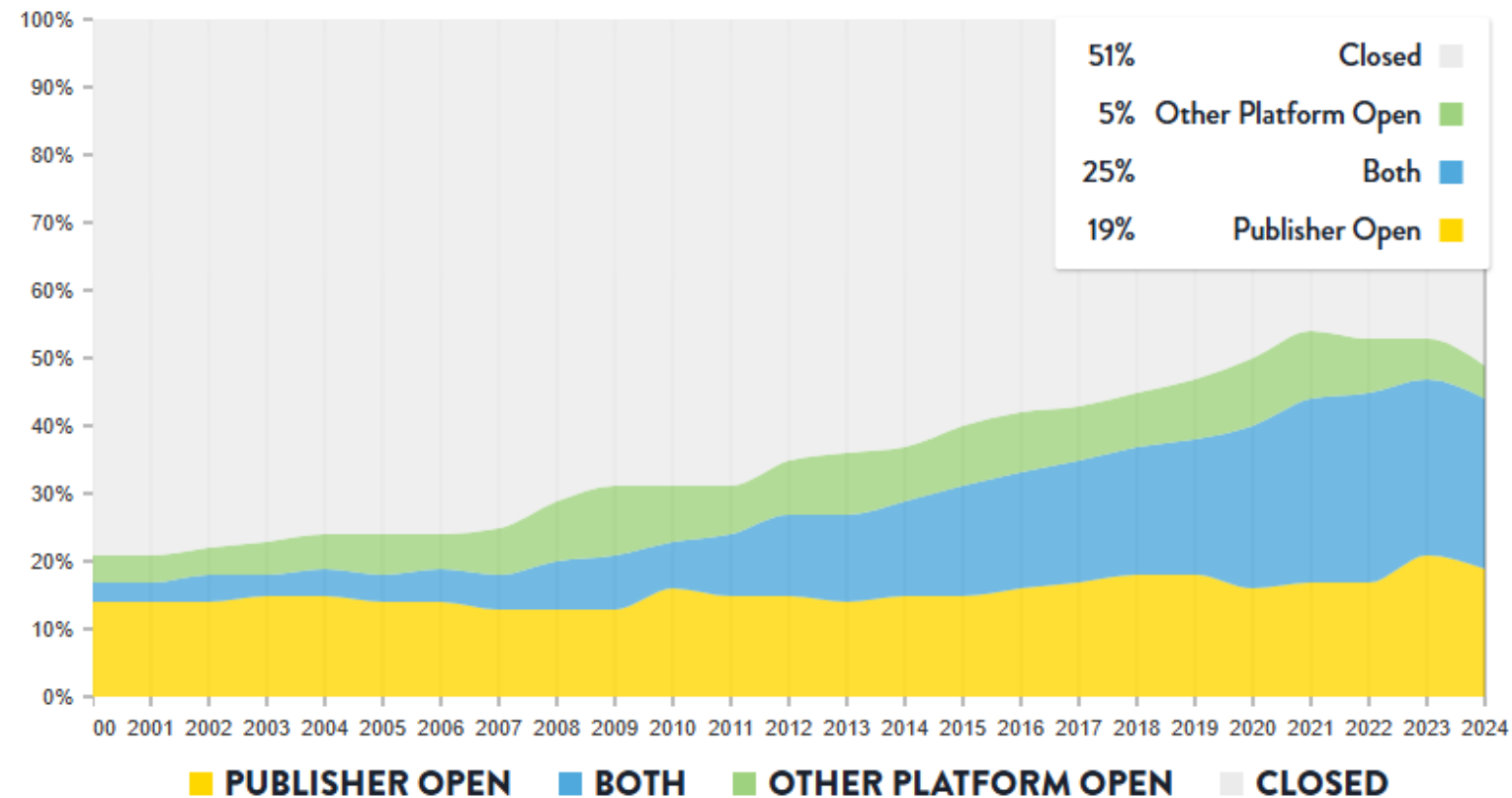
PERCENTAGE OF OPEN ACCESS OVER TIME



<https://open.coki.ac/country/ZAF/>

United States

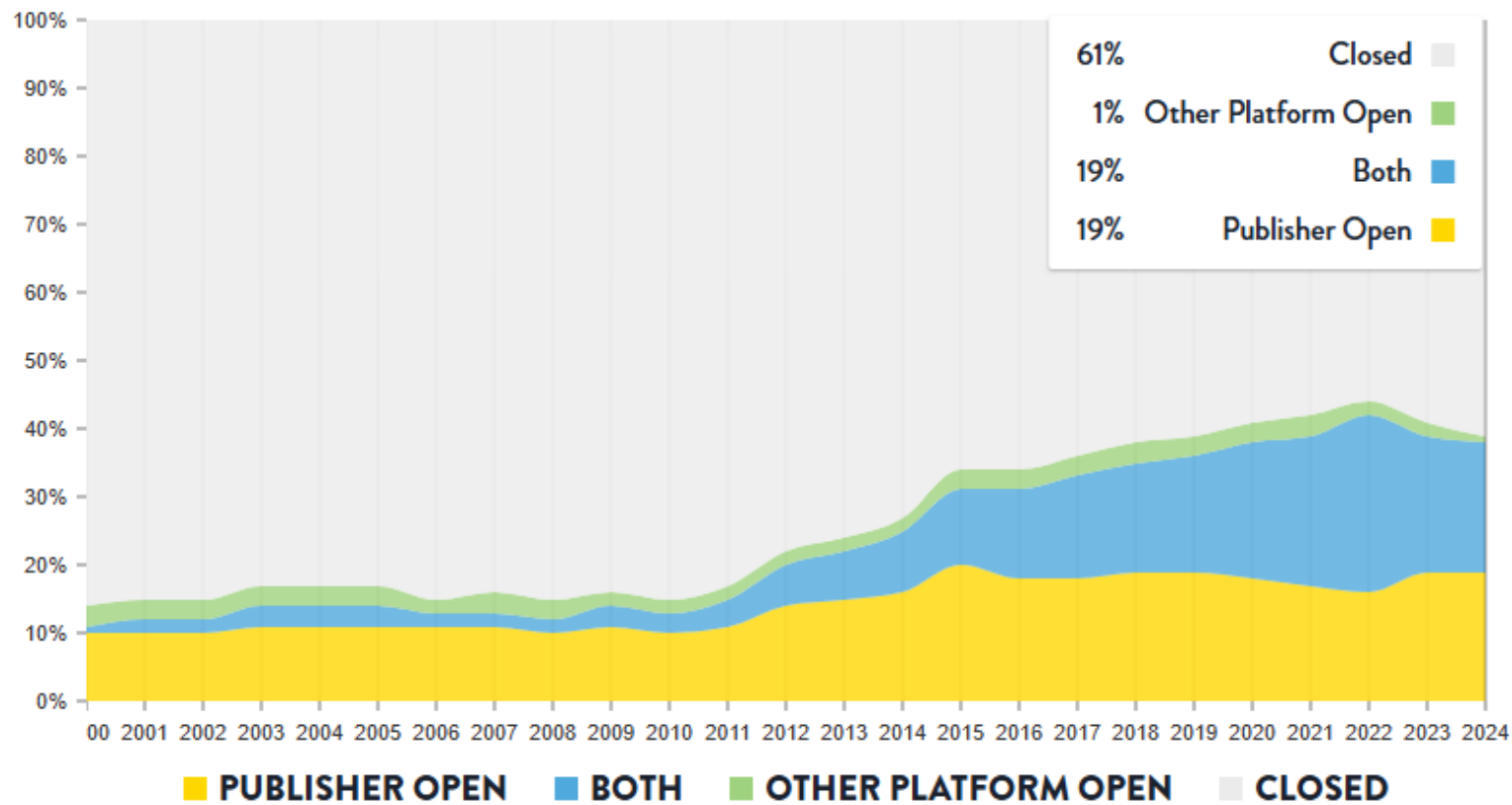
PERCENTAGE OF OPEN ACCESS OVER TIME



<https://open.coki.ac/country/USA/>

China

PERCENTAGE OF OPEN ACCESS OVER TIME



<https://open.coki.ac/country/CHN/>

Why is Open Access so crucial?

- **Because knowledge shouldn't be a privilege.** Open access ensures that anyone – policymakers, activists, educators or members of the public – can engage with the latest research without hitting a paywall.
- At a time of rising misinformation, book bans and censorship in many parts of the world, it's more important than ever to ensure that robust, peer-reviewed research is freely available. We believe open access publishing is key to building a roadmap out of today's global crises.

Research Information

Interview: Levelling the publishing field

28 October 2025

Julia Mortimer, Journals and Open Access Director at Bristol University Press

What is a transformative agreement?

A transformative agreement is a contract between a library/institution and a publisher that shifts from a subscription-based model to one supporting open access (OA) publishing, often called a "Read and Publish" agreement. These agreements repurpose library funds from paying for subscriptions to covering [Article Publication Charges \(APCs\)](#) for authors to make their work openly available. The goal is to make scholarly research freely accessible to everyone by transforming the traditional paywall system into a system where publishers are fairly compensated for their OA publishing services.

Source: Gemini AI

UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

- Open science is a set of principles and practices that aim to make scientific research from all fields accessible to everyone for the benefits of scientists and society as a whole.
- Our interconnected world needs open science to help solve complex social, environmental, and economic challenges and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- By promoting science that is more accessible, inclusive and transparent, open science furthers the right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits as stated in Article 27.1 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

International Science Council

8 Principles for Scientific Publishing

1. The rapid and global circulation of ideas is central to the scientific process. There should be universal, prompt open access to the record of science¹, both for authors and readers, with no barriers to participation, in particular those based on ability to pay, institutional privilege, language or geography.
2. Scientific publications should have a default position of carrying open licences that permit reuse and text and data mining.

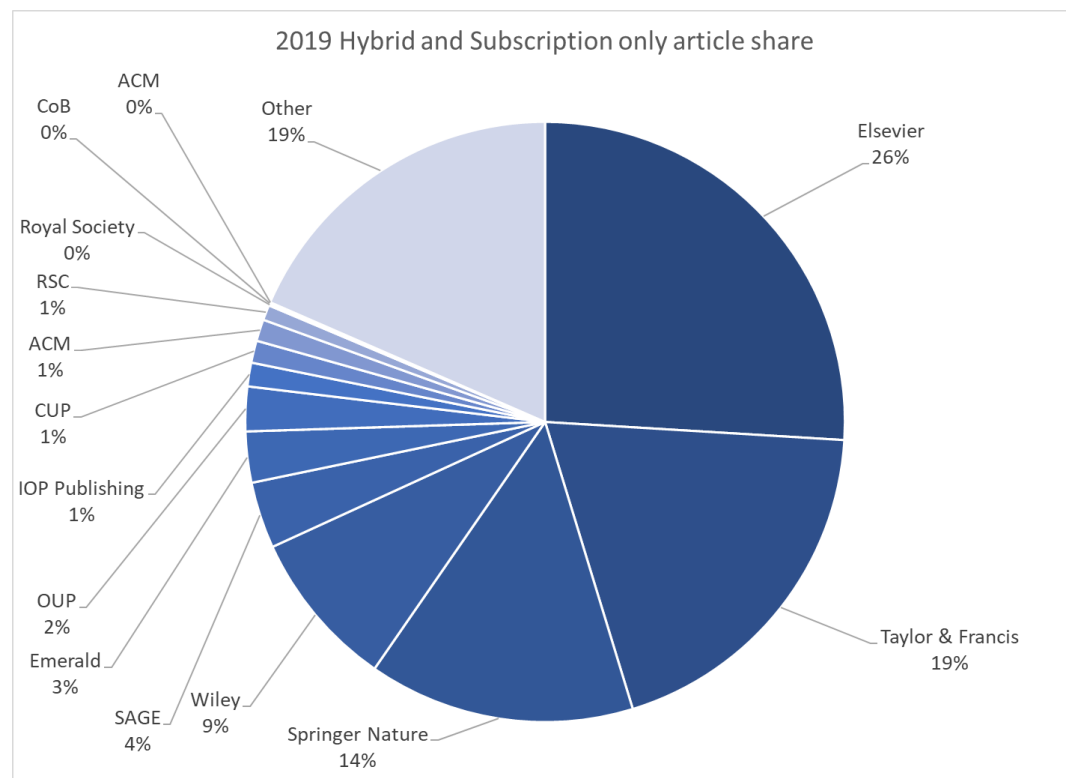
<https://council.science/publications/key-principles-for-scientific-publishing/>

Read & Publish Agreement Summary

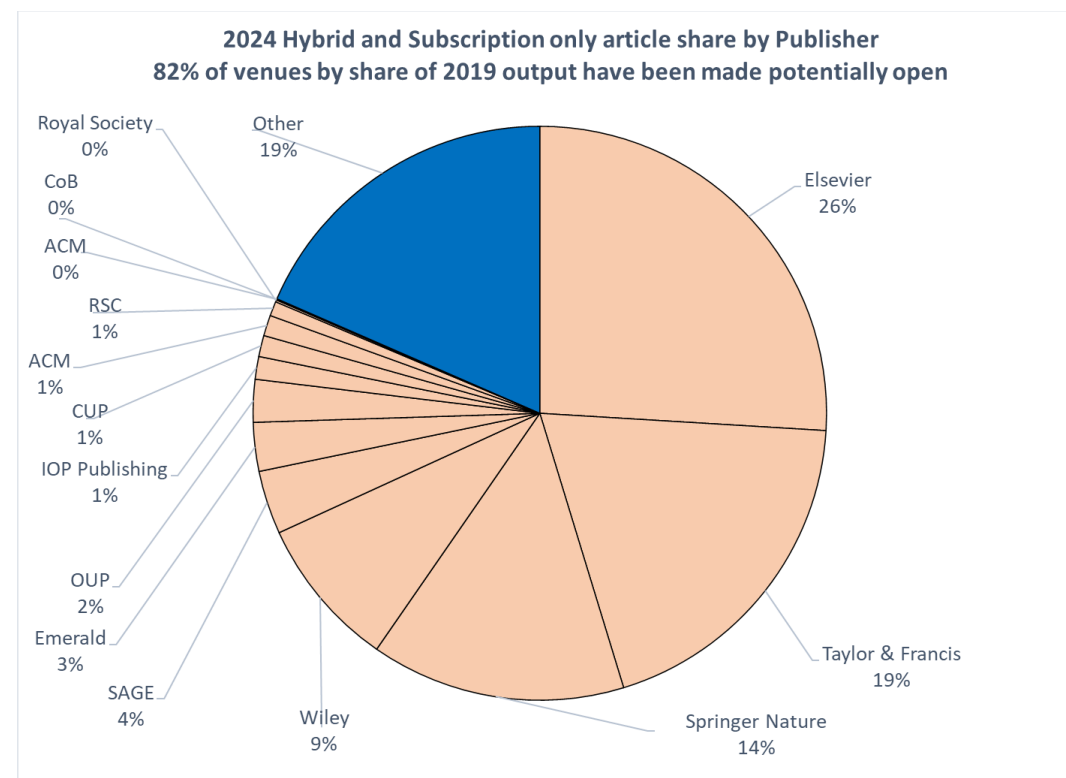
Agreements	Subscribers	Journals	Publishing Entitlement	R&P Agreement years	Share of SA Market	
					Subscription Spend	Research Output
ACM Open	15	96	Uncapped	2021-2026	0.28%	0.1%
Cambridge University Press	14	98	Uncapped	2021-2027	1.21%	0.9%
The Royal Society	3	20	Uncapped	2021-2027	0.10%	0.1%
Wiley	29	671	Uncapped	2022-2029	20.31%	6.4%
SAGE Premier	16	327	Uncapped	2022-2027	4.15%	3.1%
Emerald e-journals	21	180	Capped (181)	2022-2027	3.08%	0.5%
American Chemical Society	18	96	Uncapped	2023-2025	1.87%	0.9%
IOP Science Extra	10	37	Uncapped	2023-2025	0.99%	0.3%
Oxford Journals Online	14	174	Uncapped	2023-2025	3.06%	1.6%
ScienceDirect	29	2 580	Capped (2610)	2023-2025	32.13%	22.9%
Springer	26	1 040	Capped (1074)	2023-2025	8.57%	9.9%
Royal Society of Chemistry	13	96	Uncapped	2024-2026	1.43%	0.8%
Taylor & Francis Journals	25	1 808	Capped (1327)	2024-2026	11.36%	12.3%
Company of Biologists	5	3	Uncapped	2024-2026	0.02%	1.1%
Bentham	1	120	Capped (10)	2024-2026	0.02%	
AIP	9	28	Capped (73)	2025-2027	0.61%	

Read & Publish Agreement Coverage

2019

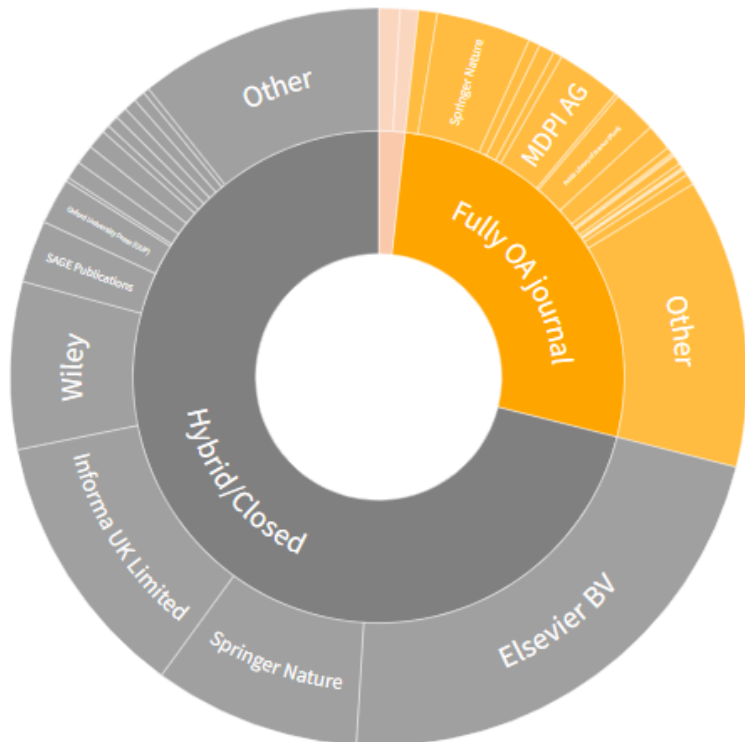


2024

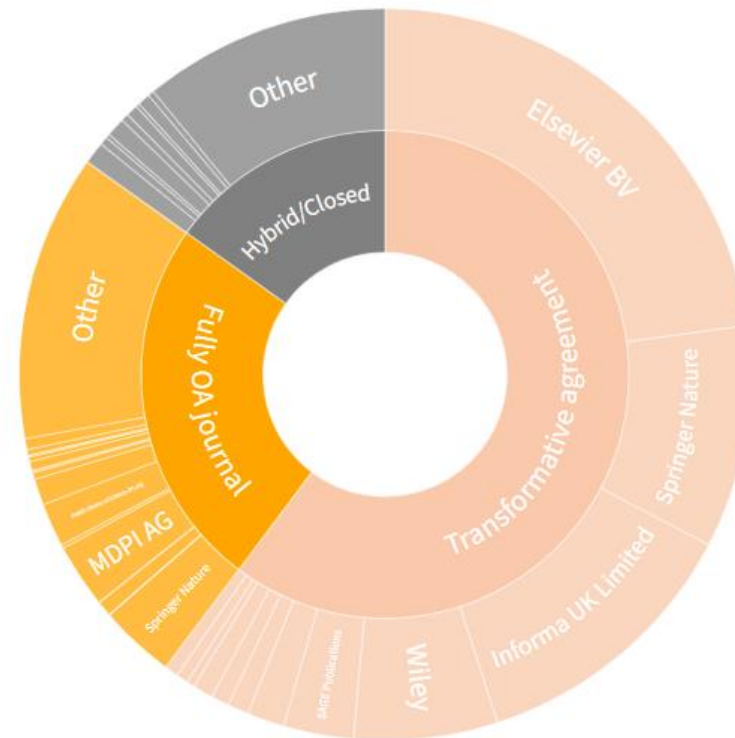


ESAC Transformative Agreement Registry and Market Watch

South Africa in 2021

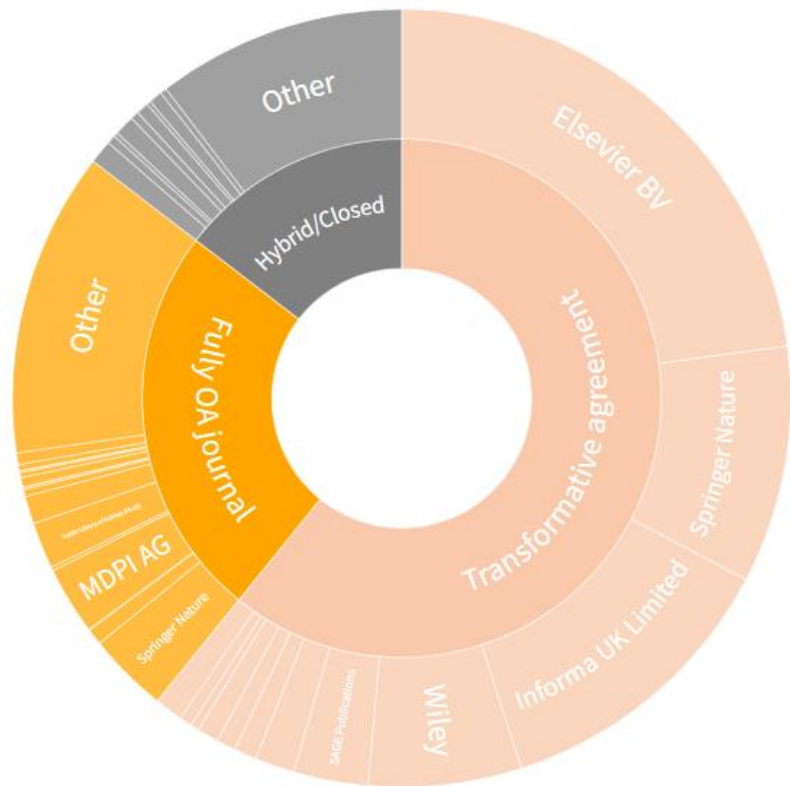


South Africa in 2024

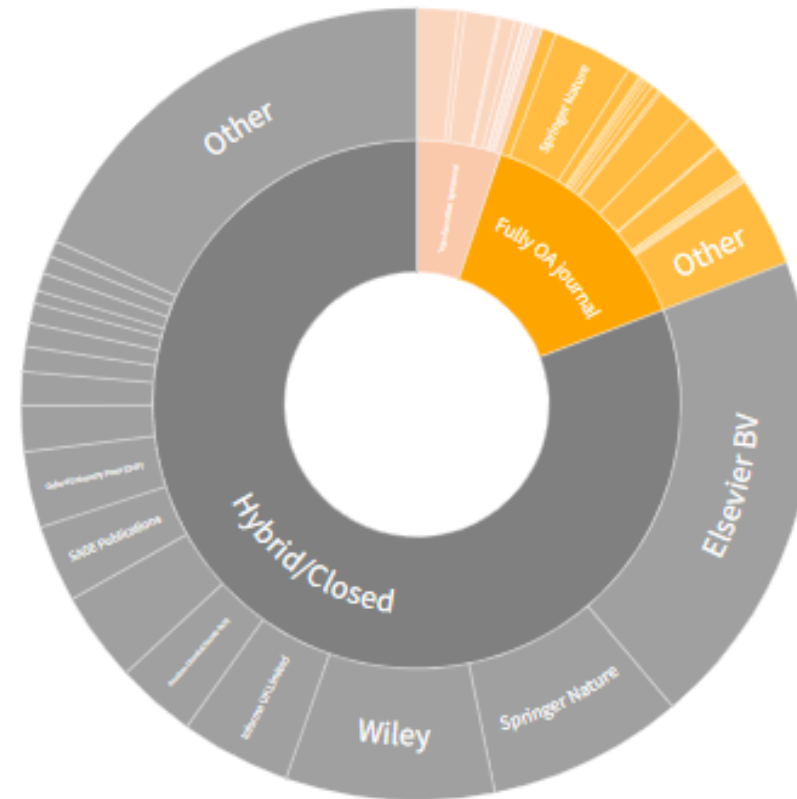


Who should pay and for what?

South Africa



United States

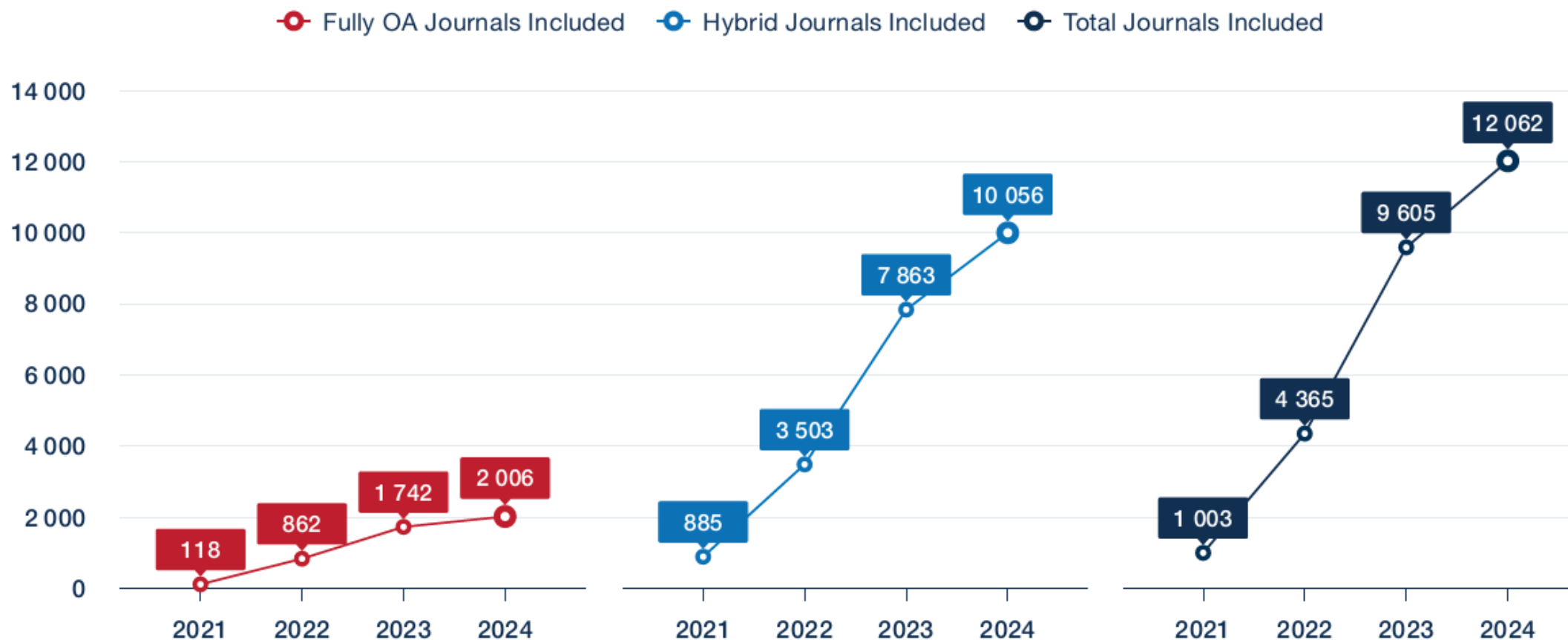


Equitable participation in Open Science

More read and publish agreements leading to:

1. Repurposing half of the overall reading subscription expenditure to finance open access (OA) publishing.
2. Increasing the volume of journals in which researchers from member institutions can publish full and immediate open access without author facing charges (APCs) and without relinquishing copyright to publishers.
3. A dramatically higher share of South African corresponding authorship being published open access.
4. Researchers enjoy no-cost open access publishing benefits in more than 80% of the hybrid publishing journal venues where they used to publish in the subscription model

Journals included in R & P Agreements



Fully Open journal APC discounts and waivers in R&P agreements

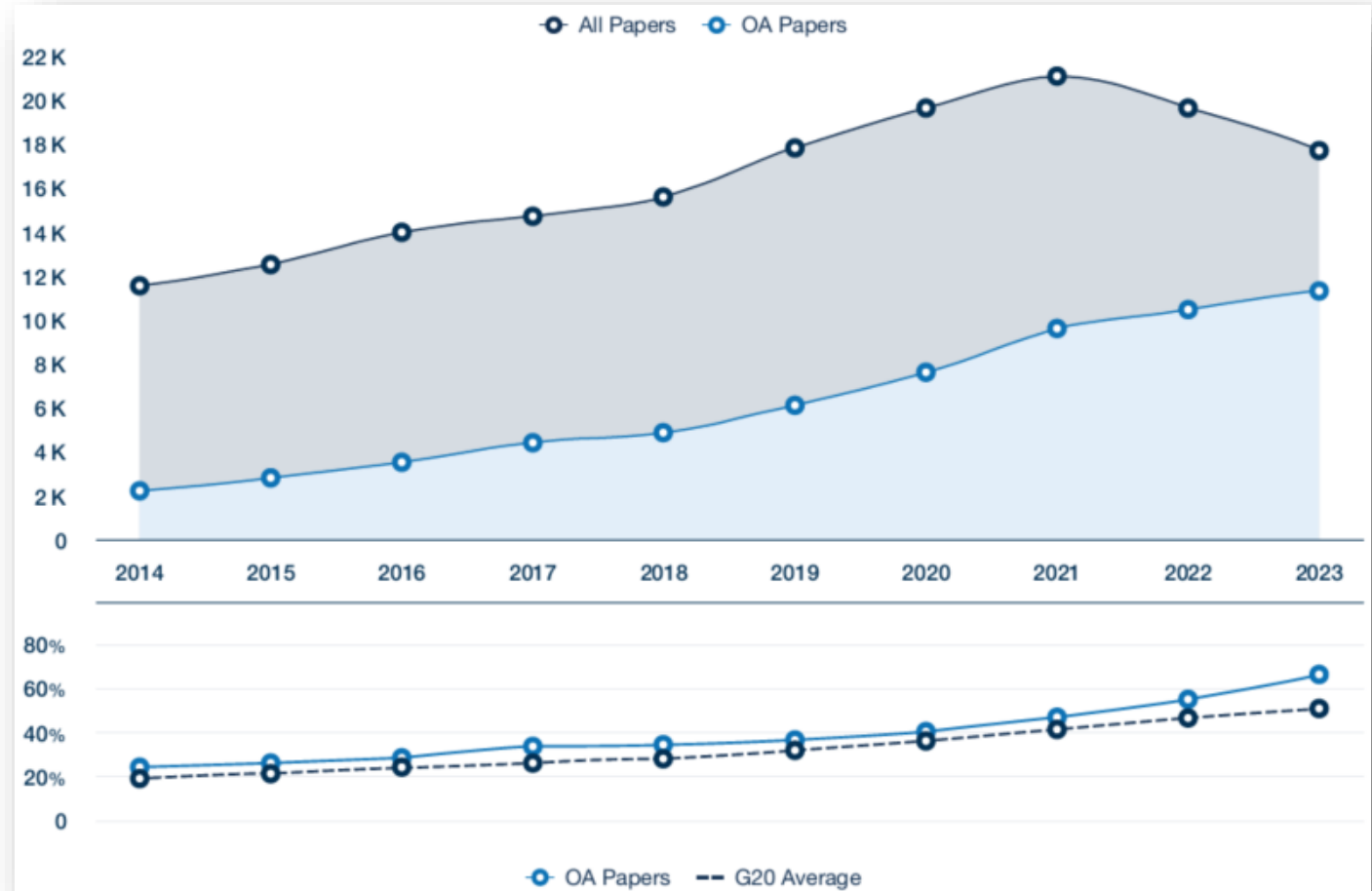


Discount	Agreement
100% Waiver	- Wiley - CUP - ACM Open - IOP Science Extra - Bentham
20% Discount	SAGE
15% Discount	ScienceDirect (Elsevier)
10% Discount	OUP
\$3 000 flat fee	ACS
Fully Open journals excluded from the deal	- Springer - AIP
N/A	The Royal Society

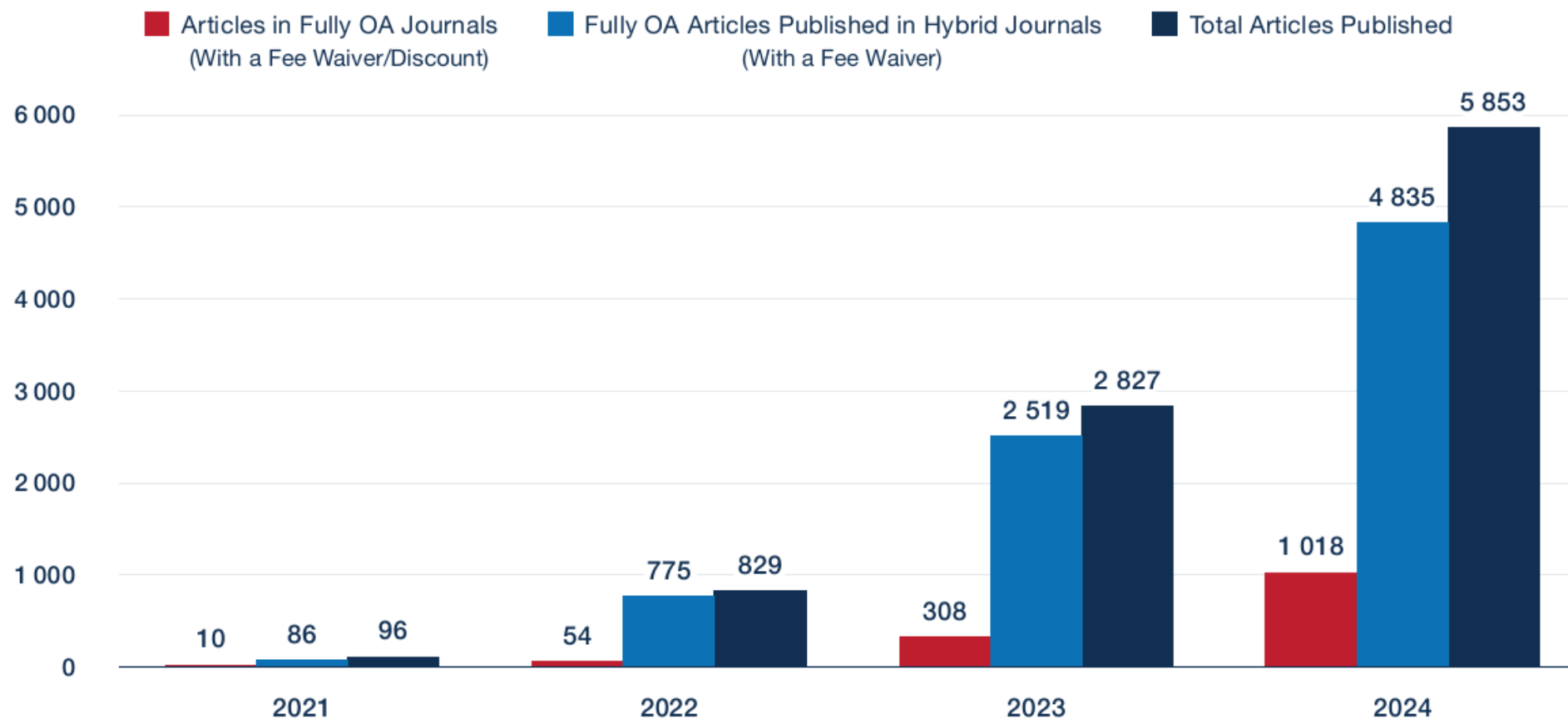
OA Output

By 2023,
approximately 66%
of South African
research output was
open access. This is
a higher percentage
than the G20
average of 51%

*G20 research and innovation
scorecard 2024*

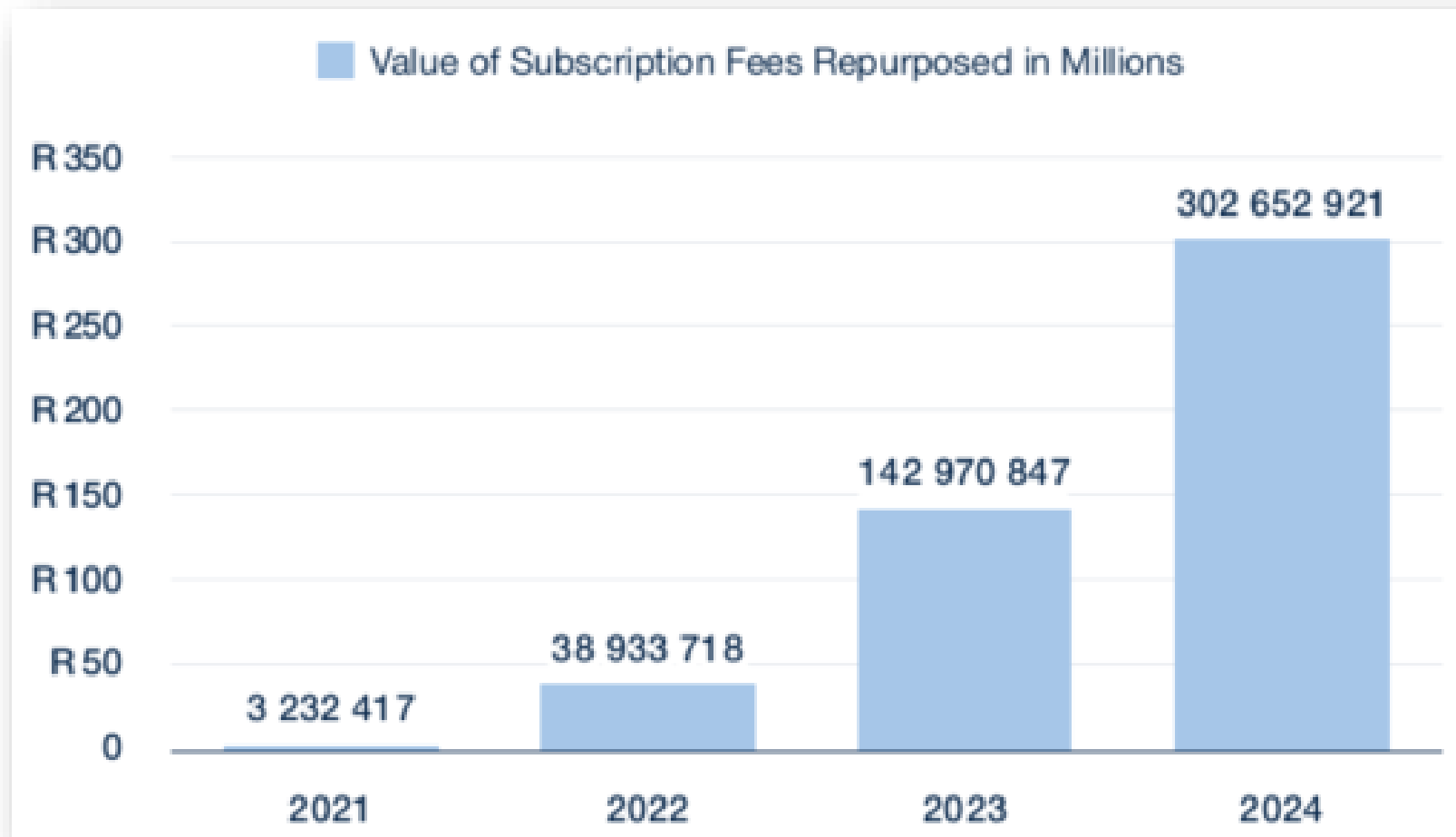


2021-2024 Research output within TAs

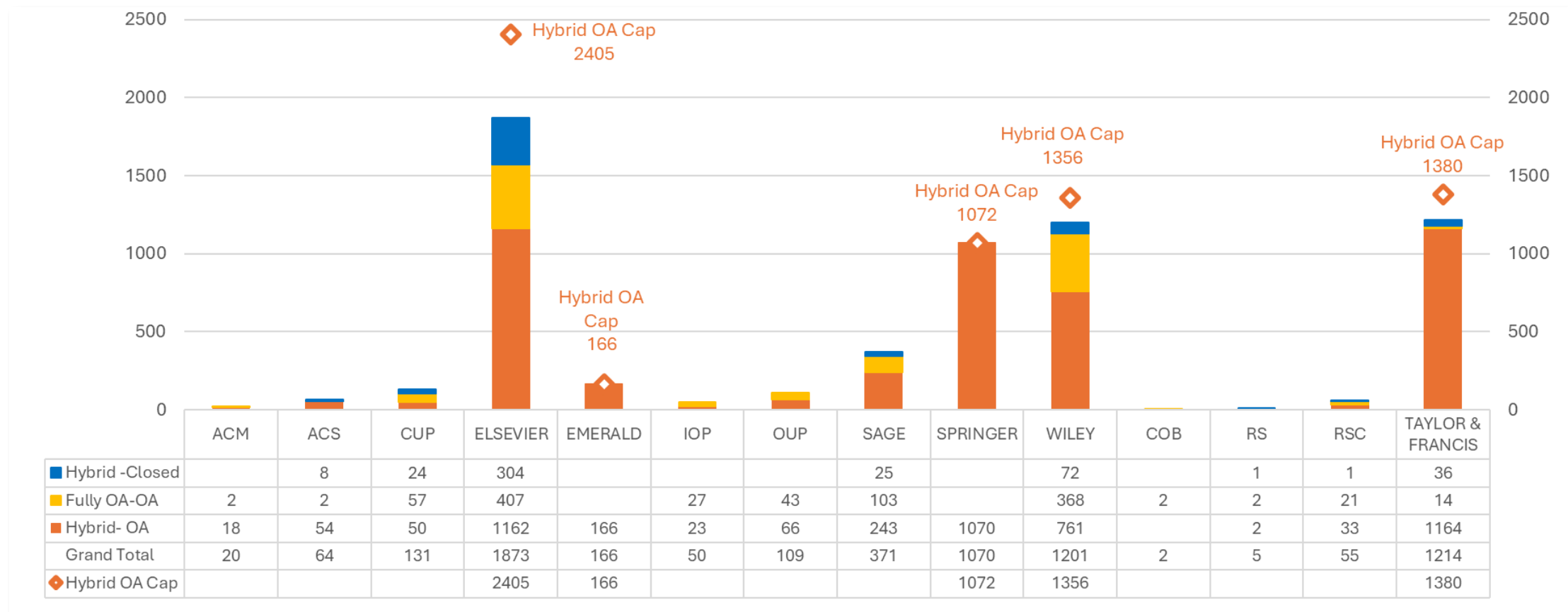


Repurposed Subscription Fees

(Publishing cost avoidance)

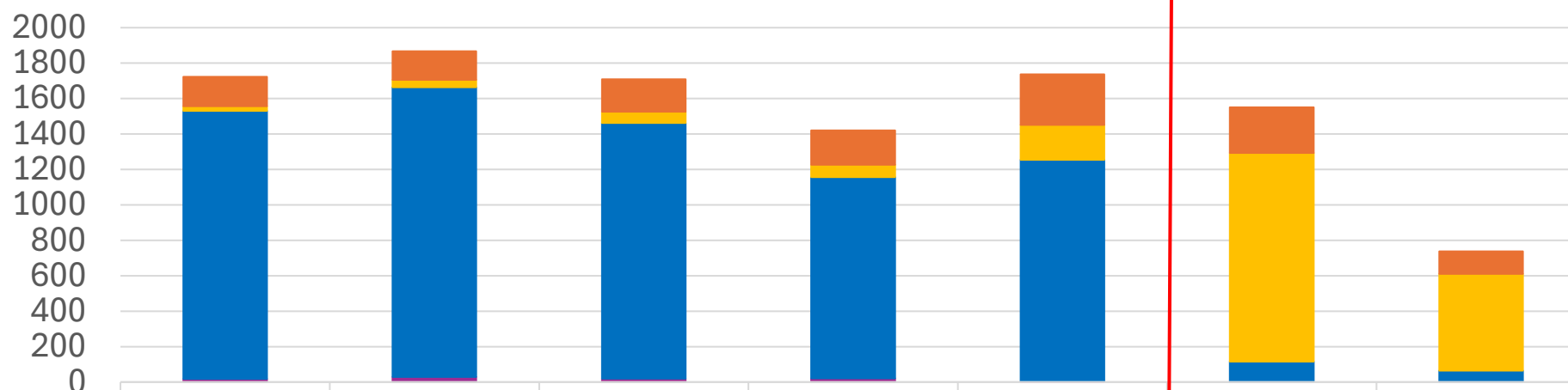


2024 Research output within TAs



SA Publishing with Taylor & Francis

SANLiC Taylor & Francis publishing before and after TAs



■ Fully OA articles
■ Hybrid OA articles
■ Hybrid Closed articles
■ Subscription Only

2019

2020

2021

2022

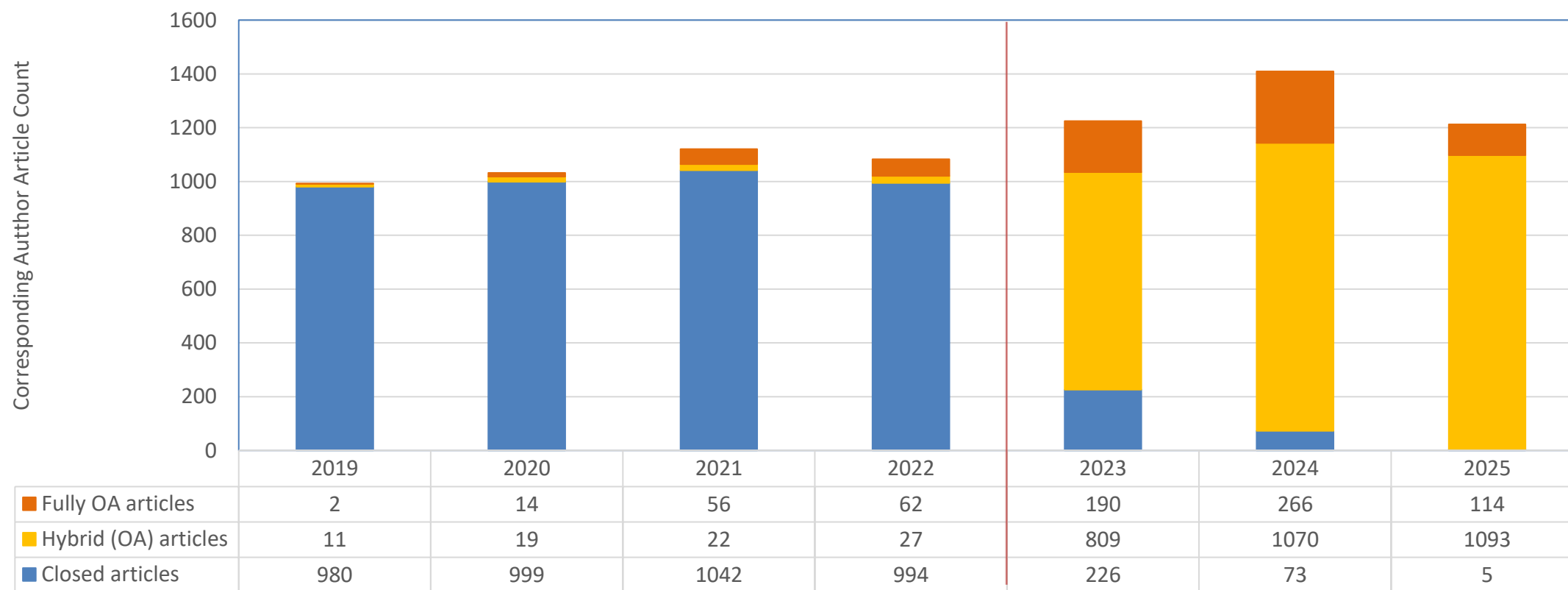
2023

2024

2025 (Jan-Jun)

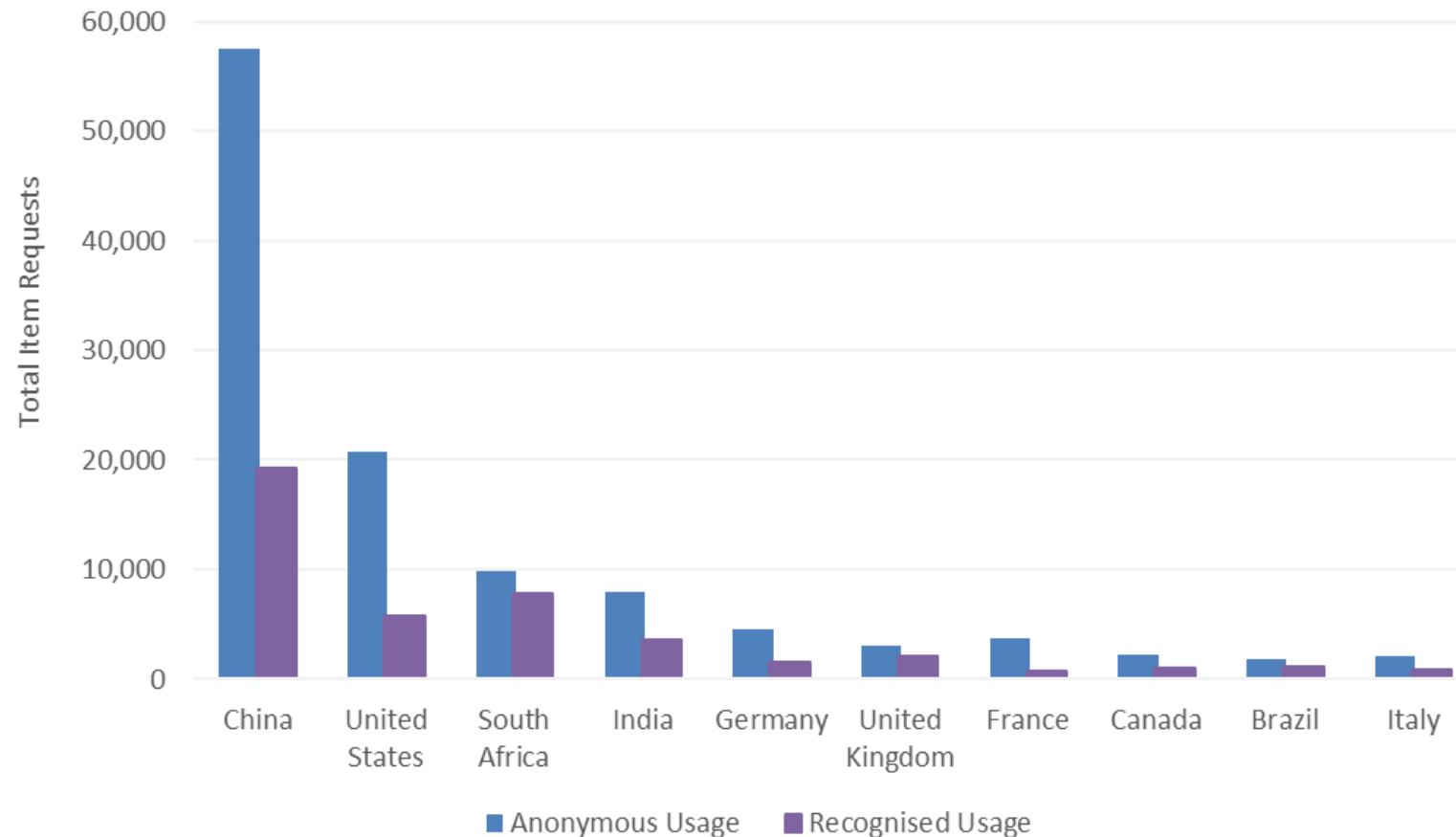
SA Publishing with Springer

SANLiC Springer publishing before and after TAs

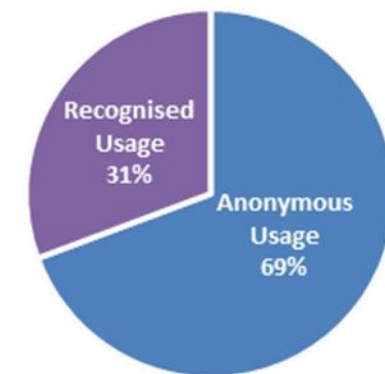


Global usage of SANLiC Springer TA publications by continent

Open access publications reach more users and communities independently of their affiliations



69% of the usage of open access publications comes from users that don't necessarily subscribe to Springer Nature content



Anonymous Usage Usage by users who have not been recognised by SpringerLink as authenticated users

Recognised Usage Usage by users who have been recognised by SpringerLink authentication processes such as IP address, federated access, Google CASA etc.

Open access benefits

Get greater exposure

70%

OA article downloads are on average 70% higher than non-OA articles in the same journal

Comply with grant obligations

Research will comply with any further mandates for OA

Be the word on the street

19%

OA article Altmetric scores are on average 19% higher than non-OA articles in the same journal

Publish under a CC-BY 4.0 license

The most commonly used license for gold OA publishing, which was liberal reuse rights attached to it

Achieve a higher impact

15%

OA article citations are on average 15% higher than non-OA articles in the same journal

High-quality peer-review and production services

IOP Publishing is committed to maintaining high-value and trustworthy author and reader services throughout its entire journal portfolio

How can I tell if my institution is in a Transformative Agreement?

- Check the South Africa page for a list of **institutions** via the Transformative Agreements (TA) Hub
- Ask your library team/library knowledge base
- Use the Journal Finder tool, available via the TA Hub

Important

- To be eligible you must be the **corresponding author**
- Remember to check the **eligible journals list**

The '**corresponding author**' is the person listed as Corresponding Author at the time of submission and is the person responsible for communicating with the journal during the peer review and publication process.



TA Hub



Eligible journals



Open access for South African institutions

- Authors at eligible TA institutions in South Africa can publish open access at **no cost to themselves**
- This is thanks to a transformative agreement between IOP Publishing and SANLiC
- The agreement allows corresponding authors to publish **unlimited open access** without having to pay article publication charges (APCs) themselves
- Authors can publish in 70+ gold open access and hybrid titles
- The agreement also provides **read** access to more than 100 journals on iopscience.iop.org (including our full archive back to 1874)

Eligible institutions

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
Durban University of Technology
North-West University
Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University
Stellenbosch University
Tshwane University of Technology
University of Botswana
University of Cape Town
University of the Free State
University of Johannesburg
University of Limpopo
University of South Africa (UNISA)
University of the Western Cape
University of the Witwatersrand

Celebrating open access research from South Africa

- A special collection of 20 papers from 2024 that have made an impact in a short space of time
- Congratulations to the authors featured in the collection

Scan for collection



Celebrating the impact of research published through the South African transformative agreement in 2024

[Home](#) > Celebrating the impact of research published through the South African transformative agreement in 2024

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The open access articles featured in this celebratory collection have been selected for the great impact they have achieved in such a short period of time.

From achieving high downloads and citations to receiving significant media coverage, these papers show how our TA in South Africa is increasing the visibility and impact of scientific research.

Join your fellow researchers who are shaping the future of science, and your articles could also be featured in news outlets such as The Guardian, The Conversation and Phys.org.

Find out if your institution is participating in this agreement to make sure your next paper gets the greatest exposure.

Is your institution not currently part of our SANLIC agreement? You can recommend a transformative agreement to your librarian [here](#).

Read the South African articles making an impact across our journal portfolio

PAPER | OPEN ACCESS

Interacting dark energy: clarifying the cosmological implications and viability conditions

Marcel A. van der Westhuizen and Amare Abebe, North-West University

2024 *JCAP* **01** (2024)048 <https://doi.org/10.1088/1475-7516/2024/01/048>

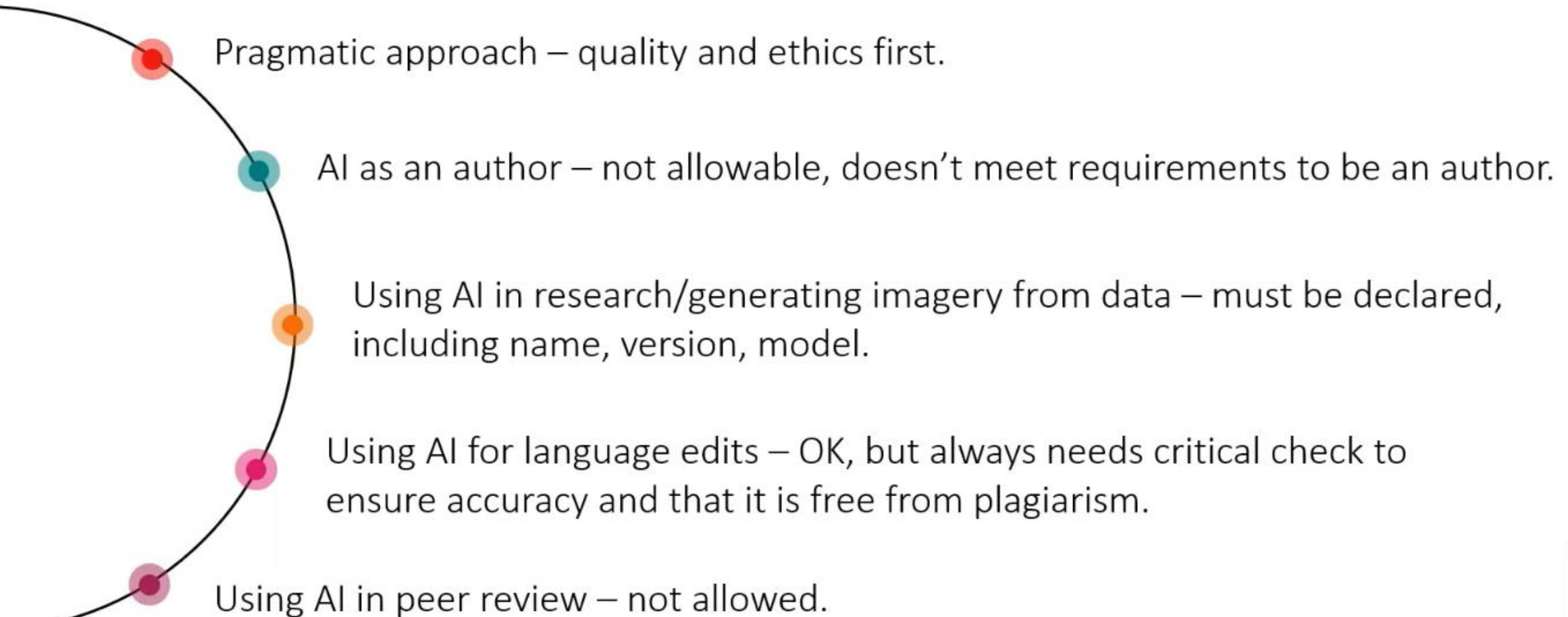
TOPICAL REVIEW | OPEN ACCESS

Application of novel hybrid deep learning architectures combining Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN): construction duration estimates prediction considering preconstruction uncertainties

Belachew A Demiss and Walied A Elsaigh, University of South Africa (UNISA)

2024 *Eng. Res. Express* **6** 032102 <https://doi.org/10.1088/2631-8695/ad6ca7>

IOPP's AI Policy



IOP Publishing

What does that mean for me?

- You will retain full ownership of your article.
- You will be able to reuse the article as you wish. For example, you will be able to:
 - ✓ Reuse portions in new publications
 - ✓ Share it via social media channels (ResearchGate, Academia.edu etc.)
 - ✓ Upload it to a repository of your choosing
- Your article will be free to read immediately upon publication, increasing it's reach and impact. IOPP's open access articles typically receive an **81% increase in downloads** and **31% more citations** when compared with non-open access articles.



Scientific Electronic Library Online

serial browsing

alphabetic list
subject list
search form

article browsing

author index
subject index
search form

reports

site usage
Publishing statistics
journal citation
co-authors

SciELO The Scientific Electronic Library Online (**SciELO**) SA is South Africa's premier open-access (free to access and free to publish) searchable full-text journal database in service of the South African research community. The database covers a selected collection of peer-reviewed South African scholarly journals and forms an integral part of the [SciELO Brazil](#) project. SciELO SA is managed by the Academy of Science of South Africa ([ASSAf](#)), funded by the South African Department of Science and Technology and endorsed by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

about this site **SciELO SA** focuses on strengthening the scholarly journal evaluation and accreditation systems in South Africa.

The SciELO library is an integral part of a project being developed by [FAPESP](#) - Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo, in partnership with BIREME - the Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information. Since 2002, the Project is also supported by CNPq - Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico.

SciELO contributes to the development of national capacities in scientific editing and publishing to be on par with the international state of the art. The project aims to make visible the science of developing countries that the mainstream does not provide for this scientific communication.

The coordinating centers all follow the same methodology and technology developed and maintained under the leadership of SciELO Brazil. Each collection has its own Web portal with multilingual interfaces in English, Portuguese and Spanish. The interfaces include a bibliometric module that provides usage statistics based on article downloads and impact indicators based on citations. This allows for the following up of the performance of the collections and the individual journals, and contributes to the enhancement of the evaluation of scientific production.

The [SciELO Portal](#) provides a single point of access to the SciELO Network of collections with searching, dissemination and bibliometric services. The SciELO Open Access collections represent an important global public good, contributing to the advancement of national programs and priorities on scientific research and communication.

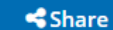
South Africa joined the SciELO Program in 2009.



Jump to section

[▶ Aims and scope](#)[▶ Journal metrics](#)[▶ Editorial board](#)[▶ Open access](#)[▶ Society information](#)[▶ Publication details](#)[▶ Advertising information](#)

About this journal



Aims and scope

The *South African Journal of African Languages* is a peer-reviewed research journal devoted to the advancement of African (Bantu) and Khoi-San languages and literatures. Papers, book reviews and polemic contributions of a scientific nature in any of the core areas of linguistics, both theoretical (e.g. syntax, phonology, semantics) and applied (e.g. sociolinguistic topics, language teaching, language policy), and literature, based on original research in the context of the African languages, are welcome. The journal is the official mouthpiece of the African Language Association of Southern Africa (ALASA), established in 1979.

After more than thirty-three years since its establishment the *South African Journal of African Languages* (SAJAL) continues to be a key educational resource, a knowledge-production hub and repository that remain invaluable for African languages throughout the world. As the show case of the African Language Association of Southern Africa, SAJAL's aims accentuate the relevance of developing the African languages towards enhancing their intellectualization. The excellent articles that continue to be published bear testimony to the high quality of the journal and the African languages as fields of academic study and research.

Language & Literature

Explore global language and literature journals, spanning linguistics, creative writing, cultural studies, and literary scholarship.

Search this subject by keyword



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Showing 1-10 of 138 results for search: All Subjects: Language & Literature

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Journals
138

Articles
192,883

Special issues & collections
3,286



Open access

African Studies is a hybrid open access journal that is part of the Taylor & Francis [Open Select](#) publishing program, giving you the option to publish open access. Publishing open access means that your article will be free to access online immediately on publication, increasing the visibility, readership, and impact of your research.

Why choose open access?



Increase the discoverability and readership of your article



Make an impact and reach new readers, not just those with easy access to a research library



Freely share your work with anyone, anywhere



Comply with funding mandates and meet the requirements of your institution, employer or funder



Rigorous peer review for every open access article

Article Publishing Charges

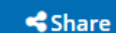
If you choose to publish open access in this journal you may be asked to pay an Article Publishing Charge (APC). You may be able to publish your article at no cost to yourself or with a reduced APC if your institution or research funder has an [open access agreement or membership](#) with Taylor & Francis.

If you choose not to publish open access in this journal, there is no APC.

Jump to section

- ▶ [Aims and scope](#)
- ▶ [Journal metrics](#)
- ▶ [Editorial board](#)
- ▶ [Abstracting and indexing](#)
- ▶ [Open access](#)
- ▶ [News and calls for papers](#)
- ▶ [Publication details](#)
- ▶ [Advertising information](#)

About this journal



Aims and scope

African Studies is an international interdisciplinary journal which aims to publish high quality conceptual and empirical writing relevant to Africa. Significant disciplines include but are not limited to: anthropology, critical race, gender and sexuality studies, geography, history, literary, cultural and media studies, sociology, and politics.

The journal welcomes critical investigations of social dynamics in Africa, grounded in relevant illustrative, qualitative, evidentiary approaches. The journal encourages innovative contributions from established and new scholars that not only reflect current conceptual thinking but also draw upon Africa in order to question received theoretical and methodological paradigms. With an active editorial board that encompasses scholars from a variety of disciplines based at both South African and international universities, the journal seeks to foster an inter-disciplinary and global conversation from, with and about Africa.

Peer Review Statement

All research articles in this journal have undergone rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and



Enter keywords, authors, DOI, etc



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In [Open access](#)

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Transformative agreement

South African National Library & Information Consortium

South Africa

Open access agreement for authors in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia.

Authors in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia are now eligible to publish open access (OA) articles in over 2,100 journals, at no cost to themselves, through a three-year agreement with the South African National Library and Information Consortium (SANLiC).

The transformative agreement, Taylor & Francis' first in Sub-Saharan Africa, enables corresponding authors at participating institutions to choose OA in all Taylor & Francis and Routledge Open Select (hybrid) journals, including UNISA Press and NISC co-published titles.

The agreement also extends access to over 1,900 journals across Humanities & Social Sciences and Science & Technology for faculty and students affiliated with participating institutions based on their subscription.

Which journals are eligible for open access publishing under this agreement?


[Advanced search](#)

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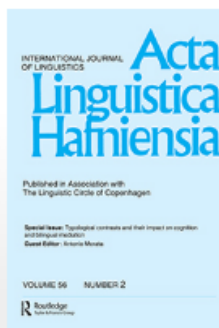
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Acta Linguistica Hafniensia was founded in 1939 by the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen, and has been an influential international platform for linguistic research ever since. Since 2009 the journal has been published in association with Routledge and continues to build on the strong traditions of the Linguistic Circle of Copenhagen through local management and editorship. Supported by an international editorial board of



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Publishes research on African languages including multilingualism, language analysis, teaching and politics, and sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics.

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The purpose of **Language Matters** is to provide a journal of international standing with a unique African flavour focusing on multilingualism in Africa. Although the journal contributes to the language debate on all African languages, sub-Saharan Africa and issues related to multilingualism in the southern African context are the journal's specific domains. The journal seeks to promote the dissemination of ideas, points of view, teaching strategies and research on different aspects of African languages, providing a forum for discussion on the whole spectrum of language

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[No Title]

On Responses of Higher Education and Training With(in) Society Through Research, Teaching, and Community Engagement¹

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ABSTRACT

This article presents a trend analysis of the directions, nuances, and theoretical developments in community engagement (CE) practices in higher education and training (HET) environments in South Africa since 1994. It focuses on the nexus of research, teaching and learning, and community engagement. The article identifies specific associations of CE with core HET activities, illustrating how this integrated approach has brought about positive change. The research was conducted in three phases. In Phase I, purposeful sampling was used to identify the published work of leading scholars in South Africa who had engaged with the call for adopting a more transformative and collaborative approach to research such that the very act of academically engaging with(in) community became an educationally visionary act. In Phase II, the scope of the sampling was broadened to include research in multiple disciplines. In the third phase, the sampling was broadened chronologically to include research

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Language as a Responsibility in Teacher Education: Multilingual Pedagogies for Higher Education in South Africa¹

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Abstract

Operating in a multilingual higher education context demands that lecturers not only acknowledge and embrace linguistic diversity to enhance inclusivity and equity but also promote knowledge and skills for academic success. At the North-West University, there is a concerted effort to equip lecturers with multilingual pedagogies. To this end, lecturers across the university enrolled in a

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Following the opening of Alternation on the UKZN platform of the Online Journal Editing System (OJS), in late 2018, we have decided to both continue publishing theme-specific issues of Alternation, as well as open issues. Calls for papers for upcoming theme-specific issues will be published, on the Calls for Papers button, on our regular site, at, <http://alternation.ukzn.ac.za/calls-for-papers.aspx>. Starting with this issue of Alternation, we shall also publish open issues, and number them consecutively, as from this, the first issue, AlterNation Open Issue #01. As usual, we provide a brief overview of the abstracts of the papers in the issue.

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About the Journal

Focus and Scope

The journal seeks to embrace a wide range of practical and research components, including information and research literacy, information management, children's literature, ethics, globalization, impact of the digital divide, technology, scholarly communication, open scholarship, indigenous knowledge systems, etc. The objective is to serve and reflect the interests of the South Africa LIS community across the spectrum of its wide-ranging activities and research. In addition to

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Agreement	CC BY licensed articles	Other licensed articles	Non-CC BY options	Total articles	% articles CC BY
Elsevier ScienceDirect	454	1,139	CC BY-NC-ND	1,593	28%
Wiley	435	694	CC BY-NC-ND, CC BY-NC	1,129	39%
Springer	1,067	3	CC BY-NC-ND, CC BY-NC	1,070	100%
CUP		105		105	0%
RSC		54		54	0%
ACS	53	-	CC-BY-NC-ND	53	100%
OUP	-	166	CC-BY-NC-ND	166	0%
IOP	49	-	N/A	49	100%
SAGE	203	141	CC BY-NC	344	59%
T&F	298	871	CC BY-NC-ND, CC BY-NC	1,169	25%
Totals	2,559	3,173		5,732	45%

Challenges

- Lack of government support
 - White paper on open science
 - Declining state Funding
- Declining economy and tax base
- Declining purchasing power
- No clear policy and inhomogeneous views on how to proceed
- Author facing charges for OA unaffordable
- “Perverse” research assessment incentives
- Inequality and exclusion
- Locked in a subscription mentality and model
- Opt-in model – no central decision
- Intended and unintended bias

Save me Time & Make me famous

- Who benefits
- Who is eligible - submitting / corresponding author
- What – R&P
- Why - knowledge shouldn't be a privilege
- Where – library, SANLiC, DHET lists -ESCI
- How – workflow and savvy
- Copyright – CC:BY
- Predatory publishing and paper mills
- The problem with research assessment
- Publishing models
- Costs and hidden costs
- Article entitlement and caps
- Take advantage!

What Gets Missed in the Discourse on Transformative Agreements

The MPDL's approach demonstrates that when **funds follow researchers, publishers compete on a level playing field**. This systematic transformation of library budgets to align with authors' publishing choices is not only possible but has the **potential to eradicate barriers by eliminating author-facing payments**. The problem with APCs lies in their role as an add-on to an outdated subscription system that was already riddled with inequities. As the Delta Think graphic at the beginning of this article illustrates, **subscriptions represent just as much, if not more, of a problem**.

The increasingly [global adoption of TAs](#) demonstrates that libraries and consortia of all shapes, sizes, and regions can “get into” the transition with the resources currently at their disposal. **To ultimately “get out” of the transition phase will require they reorganize their investment strategies** (see e.g. Pinhasi & Kromp, 2024), **placing authors and open access publishing services at the center. Managing transitions is never easy**, but initiatives such as [OA2020](#) and [ESAC](#) provide networks for sharing, learning, and support to ensure that negotiations remain relevant and [meaningful for the communities they serve](#).

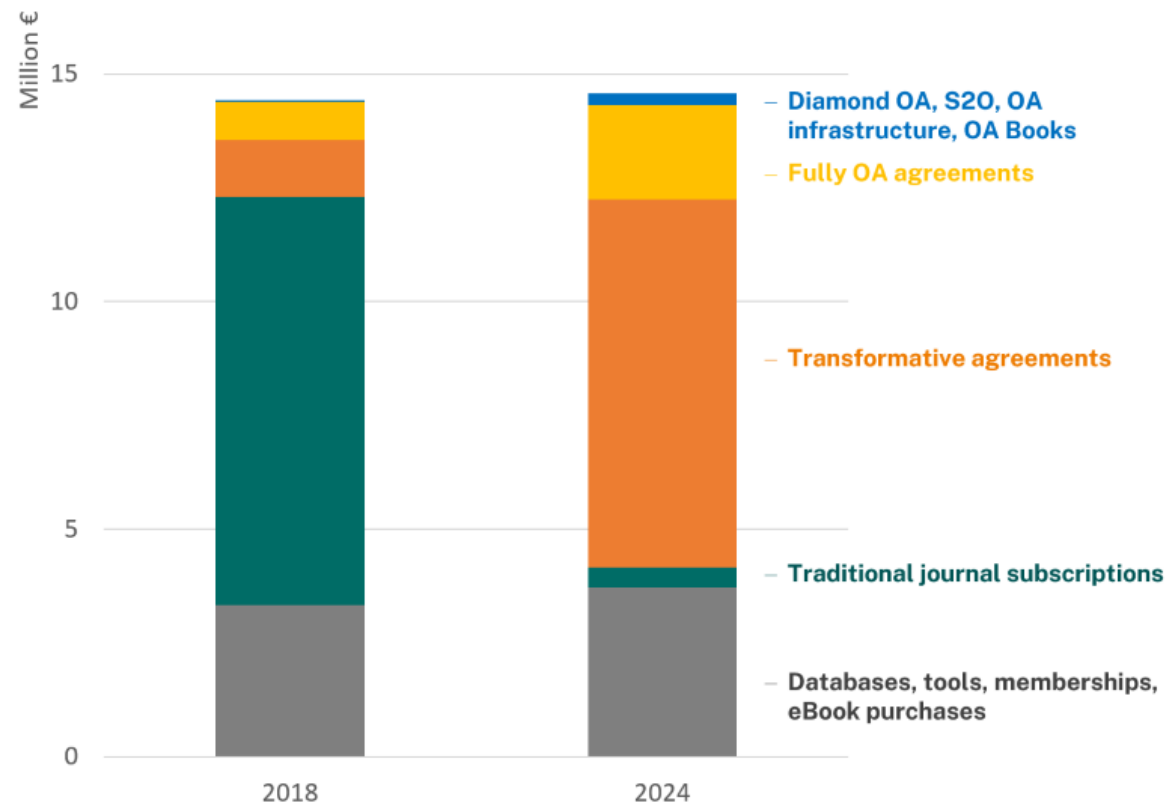
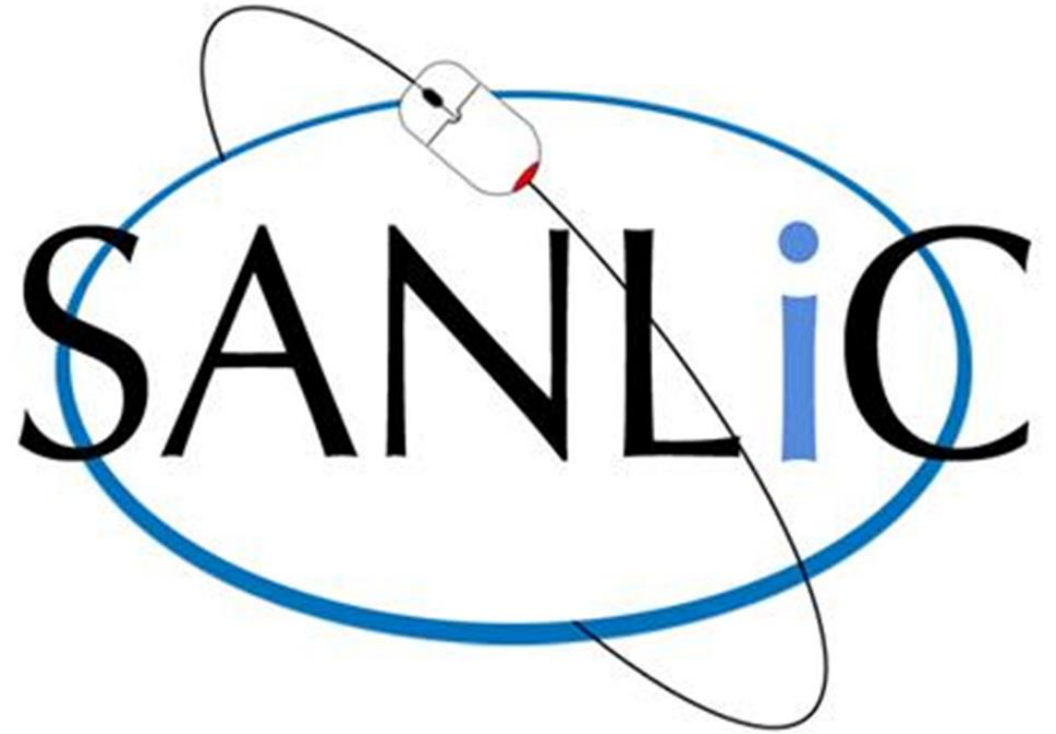


FIGURE 4 Annual license fees in the MPDL for providing access to scientific literature and for open access publishing.

<https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/open-knowledge/2025/transformative-agreements-discourse-what-gets-missed>

Thank You



Glenn Truran

SANLiiC Director

South African National Library and
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Investment per article (IPA)

Criteria	Actual IPA (total spend / OA articles)	Potential IPA (total spend / All articles)	Entitlement IPA (total spend / entitlement)	Actual IPA (all converted to USD)
Elsevier ScienceDirect	\$7,548.06	\$6,338.46	\$4,995.46	\$7,548.06
Wiley	\$6,731.23	\$6,327.69	\$5,604.40	\$6,731.23
Springer	€ 2,747	€ 2,567	€ 2,742	\$2,518.80
CUP	£3,412	£2,799	Uncapped	\$2,698.12
RSC	£8,016	£7,870	Uncapped	\$6,338.10
ACS	\$12,079.05	\$11,454.28	Uncapped	\$12,079.05
OUP	£5,214	£4,918	Uncapped	\$4,122.98
IOP	£6,240	£6,110	Uncapped	\$4,934.08
SAGE	£3,452	£3,218	Uncapped	\$2,729.39
T&F	\$3,636.12	\$3,524.56	\$3,080.16	\$2,875.12

Costs repurposed for publishing

Criteria	Hybrid APCs avoided	Fully open APCs avoided	Total subs repurposed from reading fees (value of publishing)	% fees repurposed for OA (value of publishing)
Averages				51%
Elsevier ScienceDirect	R72,467,538	R2,495,583	R74,963,121	33%
Wiley	R53,133,457	R17,059,955	R70,193,412	49%
Springer	R56,293,575	R0	R56,293,575	94%
CUP	R2,894,985	R3,308,554	R6,203,539	73%
RSC	R2,057,853	R574,087	R2,631,940	26%
ACS	R4,487,189	R9,358	R4,496,546	36%
OUP	R5,016,905	R3,627,373	R8,644,279	42%
IOP	R868,375	R963,665	R1,832,040	26%
SAGE	R14,983,919	R1,117,239	R16,101,158	66%
T&F	R53,552,729	R16,668	R53,569,397	67%
Totals	R265,756,525	R29,172,483	R294,929,008	