

Press Release

Making the open access transformation a success

Berlin, November 25, 2019

The negotiations with major scientific publishers conducted under the DEAL project led by the German Rectors' Conference are of major importance to the German science system, point the way for future negotiations with additional publishers, and influence the scientific publication system worldwide.

The TU9 Universities support the negotiating goals of the DEAL project and welcome the progress made in transforming the scientific publishing system toward open access.

Their aim in the DEAL project is to follow the golden path to open access, making open access publications the standard in scientific communication, and enabling their authors to publish research findings free of administrative and financial obstacles.

The TU9 Universities take the agreements reached as an occasion to highlight important issues in the context of the scientific publication market:

- A complete replacement of the current subscription model is not yet in sight. Many journals are currently hybrid or do not offer the possibility of open access.
- The national cost allocation for non-gold OA journals is currently not based on publication volume.
- A costing model by publication volume leads to significantly higher costs for institutions with high publication volumes.

There is a risk that institutions with high publication volumes will not be able to participate in DEAL contracts looking ahead unless there are binding agreements with the Federal Government, the Länder, and research funding agencies on how to absorb the financial impacts of the aspired-for paradigm shift.

To attain the common goals, negotiating, supporting, and research funding stakeholders must work together with the institutions, not in four years' time but right now, to provide the conditions for a reliable, sustainable, publication-based funding and cost model. High publication volume institutions in particular are dependent on a coordinated approach by all involved.

The TU9 Universities see it as their responsibility to help shape the transition to an open access-dominated publishing market. They call on all involved to pay close attention to the following points:

- In future DEAL negotiations moving from publish-and-read (PAR) fees to publication fees only, substantial savings are to be achieved. Under no circumstances may price increases be accepted.
- As well as reducing the overall costs in follow-up contracts, there is a need for a fair recalibration of publication funding by the Federal Government, the Länder, and research funding agencies.
- In order to facilitate the transformation process, low publishing volume institutions are to contribute to financing in the interests of fair cost sharing, such as in the form of a reading fee.
- All publication funding must be pooled at institutions and administered as a rule by the central library.



About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany's position as a location of science and innovation.