



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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An Update on SAA Journals

Cambridge University Press, the SAA's publishing partner, is moving its journals into a "Transformative Journals Program" and has invited its partners to do the same. The journals that enroll in the program are pledging to move toward increasing the amount of content freely available to any reader (regardless of whether they are members or if their libraries subscribe.)

Currently, the SAA journals are published as part of a hybrid open access model. In the current model, Gold Open Access articles are immediately available to readers if the author of an accepted paper pays an "article processing charge" (APC) to the journal. For SAA members, the APC is currently \$1,000 (for nonmembers the fee exceeds \$3,000). All other accepted articles are published under a Green Open Access agreement that requires no APCs. Under the Green Open Access model, once an article has been accepted, the author may make the accepted version available on the author's website, a departmental website, or an institutional repository. The author may make the published version available on the author's or department's website once it is published in the journal. They may post the published version in an institutional repository 12 months after publication. A discipline-specific repository may also be used, such as the OARR (Open Anthropology Research Repository, of which the SAA is a member).

The SAA's journal editors and the Publications Committee have researched the Cambridge proposal and recommended that the SAA Board accept Cambridge's proposal to enroll in the program. The board accepted this recommendation. The purpose of this message is to explain to SAA members how it will impact their publication in SAA journals.

This Transformative Journals Program is part of Plan S, a program devised by an international consortium of research-funding organizations that requires scholars who receive grants from these funders to publish with an open license, preferably the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY). Journals in the Transformative Journals Program meet this requirement, which allows scholars publishing in them to accept research money from these funders. Most of these funders are based in Europe. At this time, no requirement like this is expected of scholars receiving grants from most funding bodies in the Americas.

In the United States, recipients of NSF grants have the option of including a publication fee into their grant budget. Further, throughout the world, Cambridge is pursuing Read and Publish (R&P) agreements. R&P agreements allow an institution to both receive access to the SAA journal(s) and to pay for most or all of the Gold Open Access fee for any scholar affiliated with that institution. Many current library subscriptions to SAA journals are likely to be converted to R&P agreements over the next few years.

For the SAA to participate in the Transformative Journals Program, the organization has to commit to increasing their open access content until going fully open access once 75% of the journal articles are published open access. Until that point, the SAA can maintain its current membership and library subscription model, one of the key income streams of the organization.

We want to affirm that articles submitted to SAA journals will continue to be reviewed, published, and read by members and at subscribing institutional libraries as they always have been. SAA article submission, review, revision, or acceptance procedures will not change. The decision for the article to become open access is only addressed after the article is accepted. At that point, authors are asked to choose the Green or Gold option.

The SAA Board, SAA editors, and the SAA Publications Committee all value increased access to the Society's publications, but there are many unknowns about this Transformative Journals Program and the pathways by which it would be achieved. Broad trends in scholarly publishing make the adoption of open access journal publication likely inevitable, hence our agreement to participate in the Cambridge program. How it will affect the accessibility of our journals to potential authors inside and outside of the academy, and globally, will be closely monitored over this transition period. The financial impact of this transition will also be monitored, as the likely decrease of publication income as a source of revenue may well impact other Society activities. The SAA has the option of withdrawing from the program at any time. The Society must ensure that it makes a choice that expands participation, both for readers and authors, and honors the recent commitment to improve the underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and other scholars from diverse backgrounds in our publications (Gamble et al. 2020).

The type of open access that Plan S is advocating changes the equation—making access open for readers and increasing the impact of funding agency grants. It is less clear whether it opens or closes doorways for authors, especially for authors without academic affiliations, or whose institutions do not wish to enter into Read and Publish arrangements with publishers such as Cambridge University Press, or who are based outside of Europe and the United States. All of these authors are an important part of the diversity within our journals, and we want to encourage their participation.

The journal editors, Publications Committee, and SAA Board welcome feedback from SAA members about their experience with this program as it is implemented.

Additional Resources

Plan S information: <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

Cambridge University Press Green Open Access policy:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/open-access-journals/green-open-access-policy-for-journals>

Cambridge Read and Publish Agreements:

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/open-access-policies/read-and-publish-agreements>

On Green versus Gold access:

https://www.letpub.com/Gold_Open_Access_Green_Open_Access

Reference Cited

Gamble, Lynn, Deb Martin, Julia Hendon, Calogero Santoro, Sarah Herr, Christina Rieth, Sjoerd van der Linde, Christopher Rodning, Michelle Hegmon, and Jennifer Birch 2020 Statement and Commitments from SAA Editors to Change the Underrepresentation of Black, Indigenous, and Other Scholars from Diverse Backgrounds in Our Publications. *Advances in Archaeological Practice* 8(3):v–vi.