TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS: A VIEW FROM THE UK

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Acuerdos transformativos:
Un año después. ♦

WORKSHOP
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Transformative Agreements: a view from the UK

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The Oxford context

High level of publishing

Plan S, funders and Research Excellence Framework (REF) compliance

Block grants

No central University funds

Oxford University Research Archive, ORA – institutional repository
Dealing with TAs

Signed up to 30 TAs so far

Negotiated nationally by Jisc

The library reviews the TA

Consultation with academic departments

Higher level consultation for major deals, e.g. Elsevier
Dissemination strategies

Communication and engagement with researchers:
- Updates via regular channels – newsletters, mailing lists
- Contacting senior research staff, OA facilitators and admins
- Direct email to relevant researchers
- Presentations at committees

Major deals:
- Engagement with senior Divisional contacts
- Dedicated page on the Open Access Oxford webpages
- Participation in Jisc focus groups
- Elsevier town hall event in November 2021
Researchers and TAs

Researchers seem to like the TAs

They don’t have to pay and it’s a simpler process

The TAs usually cover ‘unfunded’ authors

But they assume we have a deal with every publisher / title

Often confused by publisher workflows
Have TAs changed our institutional policies?

- Funder policies and REF have had a bigger impact than TAs
- Priority for TAs over individual APCs
- Support for green route / Rights Retention Statements
- Impact on internal funding for TAs – Materials Budget
Difficulties with TAs?

😊 System for evaluation and consultation  
😊 Using the deals  
😊 Researcher awareness and communications

😊 Costs increasing – esp. for research intensives  
😊 Excluded titles, usually fully OA  
😊 Poor reporting from some publishers

❓ Prioritising hybrid  
❓ Impact on researcher choice of publishing venue  
❓ Future uncertainty – shape of deals after 2024 and funding
Transformative agreements – pros

👍 They constrain costs – sometimes

👍 Based on something familiar – previous costs

👍 Aim to be transparent

👍 Aim to move towards more OA publishing

👍 Offer an efficient process for authors

👍 Usually include ‘unfunded’ authors

👍 Most of the big publishers now offer TAs
Transformative agreements – cons

- ‘Bakes in’ previous APC costs
- A new ‘big deal’ – forced to buy the whole collection
- Add in titles cost more but don’t reduce cost for titles leaving
- Increase in cost of APCs outside a deal
- Corresponding author vs co-author
- Deals with caps which run out – very few of these
- TAs swallow lots of funding, leaving little for other models
Renewal of TAs?

Concern over increasing costs esp. for research intensive universities

Publishing has increased during the deal

Most deals include unfunded authors – funders are subsidising these

Erratic moves from read to publish – some none, some 100%

We have started along this road…

What happens after 2024?
Questions and discussion