

PRESS RELEASE

Université de Lorraine commits itself to foster open science

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Enabling the widest possible access to scientific knowledge and fostering open communication between researchers are objectives of the Université de Lorraine (UL) for the next five years. In early 2018, UL has taken several decisions that mark its commitment to open science.

First at all, UL decided, like several other French universities, not to renew its institutional subscription to the Springer's 2000 scientific journals package. The main reason behind this decision is the steadily increasing costs during the last 15 years leading to a financial level that higher education institutions cannot match any longer. Between 2007 and 2017 the price increased 60% to reach nearly 160,000 €. The model of bundled subscriptions (known as big deals) coupled with a strong and continuous price increase is coming to an end. Time has come to rethink the process of scientific communication towards more openness, more transparency and more cost efficiency.

This is the logic behind the fact that UL was the first university to sign [the Jussieu Call for Open science and bibliodiversity](#) in October 2017.

In the wake of this commitment, UL decided in 2018 to financially support, in a partnership approach, several publishing initiatives that meet the principles of scientific quality, openness, transparency and a governance centered on the academic community. Are concerned, in Humanities and Social Sciences, [OpenEdition](#) and [Erudit](#) (Québec), both platforms with several hundreds of scientific journals. Université de Lorraine is also pleased to become the first French institution to support [Open Library of Humanities](#) (United-Kingdom). In the STM (Science Technology Medicine) fields, UL chose to support the [Sci-Post](#) platform (physics), the French publisher [EDP Sciences](#), as well as an open access overlay journal originating from its mathematics laboratory: the Epijournal de Géométrie Algébrique ([Epiga](#)) which uses the [Episciences](#) platform.

Finally, Université de Lorraine is the first French university to join the [Fair Open Access Alliance](#), a structure that offers help on methodological and financial levels to scientific journal wishing to leave the fold of big commercial publishers and join open publishing platforms.

Almost all of these innovative initiatives have in common to offer publishing models that are both free for the reader (open access) and for the author (no payment of APC). Besides, UL is committed to continue to support professional associations and infrastructures that foster open science (DOAJ, Sparc Europe, COAR).

“Université de Lorraine is pleased to support all these initiatives and to contribute to the development of new scientific publishing models that are open, transparent and academic-centered. UL intends to continue and amplify in the coming years the policy in support of open science, in a pragmatic and voluntary way, focusing in particular on the question of the management and sharing of research data.” concludes professor Frédéric Villières, vice-provost for research of Université de Lorraine.