



## Sweden takes a stand for open access - the contract with Elsevier is terminated

**After 20 years, the Swedish research libraries, including BTH, terminate the agreement with the scientific publisher Elsevier. The reason is that the publisher does not meet the requirements for open access.**

The government's goal is that the results of all publicly funded research should be immediately openly available by 2026.

Within the framework of the Bibsam consortium, the Royal Library negotiates licenses for, among other things, scientific journals to universities, colleges, authorities and state research institutes. To succeed in switching to open access, the consortium requires:

- Immediate open access to all articles published in Elsevier's journals by researchers affiliated to the consortium's participating organizations,
- Reading rights to Elsevier's 1,900 journals for participating organizations,
- A sustainable price model that allows for an open access transformation.

### Agreement terminates June 30th

Elsevier has not been able to offer an agreement with a model that corresponds to the requirements of the Bibsam consortium. Therefore, the current agreement has been terminated as of June 30, 2018.

Swedish researchers publish about 4,000 articles each year in Elsevier's journals. In 2017, approximately 13 million SEK was paid in open access publishing costs, in addition to the 120 million kronor that participating organizations pay in license costs to read publisher magazines.

Astrid Söderbergh Widding is Rector of Stockholm University, Chairman of the Bibsam consortium steering committee and the leader of the negotiations. She argues: "We need to take control of total publishing costs, as we see a tendency towards rapidly increasing costs for both reading and publishing. The current system of scientific communication must change. Our only chance of achieving this is not renewing agreements that do not meet the demands of sustainable transformation into open access".

### Access after June 30?

Researchers from the participating organizations will still have access to articles published between January 1995 and June 30, 2018. Elsevier has announced that they will turn off access to content published after that date. How access to this archival material will be organized is not clear at this moment. Any new information the library receives will be announced.

### Alternative access routes

We have in earlier newsletter informed about alternative channels for finding open access scientific articles and mentioned resources like [Unpaywall](#), [Open Access Button](#) and of course social networks like ResearchGate or Academia.edu. For computer- and engineering sciences [Semantic Scholar](#) could also be of interest. The library can of course help via interlibrary document request to libraries outside the conflict.

The September 2017 Newsletter with info on resources for finding OA articles: <http://bth.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1138215/FULLTEXT05.pdf>

Information on alternative access routes to scientific docs. (in swedish): <http://openaccess.blogg.kb.se/openaccess-definition/hitta-oppna-artiklar/>

### About the Newsletter

This newsletter cover information about scientific publishing with focus on Open access and BTH issues.

It will also give some information about research funding, not on specific calls but regarding more general issues in connection to funding of research projects.

The Library and Grants Office at BTH cooperates in the production of the Newsletter.



The newsletter is issued quarterly.

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