

STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

The N8 Research Partnership – the collective body for the North of England’s eight research intensive universities – have announced key commitments to sustainable scholarly publishing and are pushing for fundamental reform in the way scholarly research is published.

Our statement on Sustainable Scholarly Publishing highlights problems with the nature of the current publishing ecosystem and calls for alternatives that are financially viable, transparent, and aligned with the values of open science.

During a period of major challenges for the UK’s higher education sector, the N8 calls on publishers to shift away from operating in a manner that no longer serves the interests of academic communities and offers limited innovation in how research is disseminated, towards fairly and transparently priced, open access, academically rigorous and value-added publishing platforms and services.

The N8 Statement on Sustainable Scholarly Publishing makes the case for a stronger role for mission-driven scholarly societies and non-profit publishers who are already leading the way in developing new, more equitable models. It sets out key commitments all of the N8 universities are making which include:

- Exploring shared infrastructure and supporting enhanced green open access proactively through institutional repositories
- Investing in non-profit tools and platforms that support open research and transparent publishing
- Engaging researchers in conversations about the impact of their publishing choices
- Sharing best practices with the wider library and research sector
- Championing healthy research cultures through open access, responsible metrics, and inclusive infrastructure

This intervention in the debate around scholarly publishing builds upon the N8’s collaborative work on Rights Retention, which strongly recommends that researchers do not by default transfer their intellectual property rights to publishers and to use a Rights Retention statement as standard practice.

Our latest statement sets out how we are committed to collaborating to drive efficiency and deliver value for money in the scholarly publishing model. We hope it represents a first step towards the N8 working with publishers to develop different approaches that will benefit all parties.