

N8 Statement on sustainable scholarly publishing

The N8 institutions are committed to research collaboration and excellence in scholarly communication which plays a critical part in enabling new knowledge to be shared as widely, quickly and freely as possible for the benefit of society. This underpins our individual and collective success as research-intensive Universities.

This is a pivotal moment for the higher education sector in the UK. A challenging international student recruitment market and the declining real-terms value of undergraduate tuition fees have placed an unprecedented burden on UK university finances.

Most research in N8 universities is publicly funded, with researchers providing this content, and peer review and editorial services to publishers, largely free of charge, while at the same time being charged to read and publish the knowledge that they have generated. This situation has now reached the point where this is financially unsustainable.

As the N8 Research Partnership we will work collectively to encourage publishers to move towards fairly and transparently priced, open access, academically rigorous and value-added publishing platforms and services.

We are committed to collaborating to drive efficiency and deliver value for money in the scholarly publishing model by:

- Exploring and promoting shared infrastructure opportunities and developing the scholarly publication routes available to researchers, including an 'enhanced green open access' (self-archiving) offer;
- Investing in non-profit tools, platforms and resources to increase the uptake of, and embedding of, open research and scholarship practices;
- Promoting more diverse approaches to scholarly publishing by engaging with researchers within our universities;
- Sharing best practice with the wider library sector;
- Partnering with research communities to raise awareness of financially sustainable and transparent publishing models;
- Championing a positive and inclusive research culture including support for open access, learning and scholarship, responsible metrics, research assessment and open infrastructures.