

# A Learned Society's View on Scholarly Publishing in Chemistry

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**(German Chemical Society)**

## The Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker

- **Largest chemical society in Continental Europe**
- **> 31,000 members**
- **Not-for-profit registered charity**
- **> 50 employees, annual budget > 10 million €**
- **> 30 Divisions and Working Parties**
- **ca. 60 local sections**
  
- **Scientific publishing and dissemination of information among statutory aims**
- **Owner and co-owner of > 20 scientific journals**
- **Including *Angewandte Chemie*, one of the leading journals in chemistry**
- **Significant income from publishing**



## **GDCh Positionpaper "On the Future of Scientific Publishing"**

- **Update of the "discussion paper" from 2004**
- **Committee established spring 2012**
- **Members from academia, chem/pharm industry, publishers, libraries, funding organizations**
- **Unanimously passed by GDCh Board on 2 December 2013**
- **Available in German and English at [www.gdch.de/positionen](http://www.gdch.de/positionen)**
  
- **EuCheMS/EPS paper developed independently**
- **Nevertheless significant overlap**

# "On the Future of Scientific Publishing"

## Key Points

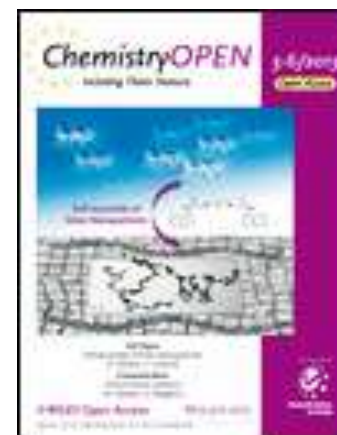
- **Quality assurance and peer review**
- **Archiving and sustainability**
- **No financial barriers for authors**
- **No reallocation of research funds**
- **Implications for chemical societies**
- **Financial imponderabilities in the transition to OA**
- **The role of the chem/pharm industry**
- **Freedom of publication – No mandates!**

## Recommendations

- **GDCh supports free access to scientific information**
- **It recommends the green Open Access model (with adequate embargo time) as most suitable at the moment**
- **The gold Open Access model still contains many unsolved problems**
- **GDCh recommends to its members, scientific institutions, companies and science policy makers to consider critically the possibilities of OA and the points mentioned**

## Our Gold OA Experiment: ChemistryOpen

- **Launched by ChemPubSoc Europe and Wiley-VCH in 2012**
- **First society backed gold OA journal in chemistry**
- **Same editorial policy as with all other journals**
- **APC 2,500 EUR (CPSE members 2,000 EUR)**
- **First JIF (2015): 3,25**
  
- **Reluctance among authors**
- **Low number of regular submissions**
- **Only higher when APC was waived 2014-15**
- **Low revenues**



## Conclusions

- **Authors in chemistry don't care much about OA**
- **And are sceptical about Gold OA ("additional hassle")**
  
- **No publication w/o quality control**
- **No mandated Open Access**
- **No reduction of research funding due to transition to OA**
- **No non-scientific criteria in the publication process**
- **Green OA preferred over Gold OA**
- **Green OA needs appropriate embargo period**
  
- **Whatever academic publishing of the future looks like, it must be of benefit for the progress of science**