

## **APE 2023 MISSION STATEMENT**

October 10, 2022

### **APE 2023: Berlin Re-Visited Building Technological Support for Scholarship and Scientific Publishing 10-11 January 2023**

Almost 20 years after the ‘Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities’: APE 2023 calls for action.

Out with the old, in with the new! Moving science forward means embracing disruption and innovation, rather than clinging to the old ways of doing things. Since 2004 a lot of progress has been made in Open Access, but in spite of the DEALS and a fast-growing number of transformative agreements, we are still far from a world with unlimited exchange of information. We need fewer barriers and better technology for equitable access and sustainable preservation. The multi-platform approach is hard to navigate through for researchers, librarians and information specialists.

Are we prepared for the global flip? Will the newly announced OSTP Nelson Memo’s Public Access policy guidance accelerate such a transition at scale? What is the position of the European Commission?

The reality today is that we still have to overcome many challenges around ‘digital transformation’. Current legacy tools/technology used within most publishers and institutions do not accommodate this massive and pivotal transition process. How can publishers and libraries respond to and support sustainability issues? And what does all this mean for technology and research infrastructure? Who is – or should be – responsible for what? What are the building blocks needed? There is a lot of work ahead of us.

Trust, peer review, research integrity and existing technology that might bring us closer to solutions are not yet fully integrated in today’s workflows. In our (mostly) open world, creating, distributing and consuming information has never been easier. But how do you know what’s trustworthy? Paper mills, predatory publishers, and other players are contributing to a worrying decline in trust in scientific publications. Peer review, which plays such a central role in ensuring research integrity, is struggling to keep up with the vast amount of research being submitted for publication. The underlying data on which these publications are based often goes unchecked, eroding that trust still further. Peer review needs to be better understood and better supported; more support and should receive appropriate credit; and we must also address the responsibility (and expertise) of peer reviewers, as well as ensuring that they receive appropriate credit.

Discussion of scholarly publishing mostly refers to journal articles, however, publications are getting more and more modular (separate protocols, open data, preregistration, etc.). A new format on the block will be open and reproducible methods, which also deserve some discussion. Last but by no means least, what about books?

In short, what are the greatest challenges for researchers, publishers, librarians, and others involved in scientific communications?

In the APE 2023 conference we will examine these and other timely topics with expert speakers, with ample time for discussions—and with a special focus on Early Career Researchers and Scholarly Publishers.

As we want to be as actual as possible, details about the Program will be regularly updated on the website: [www.ape2023.eu](http://www.ape2023.eu)

## **Introducing: The APE Award for Innovation in Scholarly Communication**

As ever, the APE conference is keen to bring actors together across the scholarly publishing ecosystem. One important reason to come together is to share ideas and understand progress in our sector. This year we want to take advantage of our being together to also recognise those who help push forward the boundaries in our space. Those innovations can be in business models, theoretical approaches or practical or technological implementations. We have worked together with Digital Science and proudly announce that 2023 will see us introduce the **APE Award for Innovation in Scholarly Communication**. Please watch out for our imminent call for nominations!