

**The California State University’s Council of Library Deans supports the University of California’s push for open access to publicly funded research.**

As the nation’s largest four-year public university system, the California State University’s (CSU) Council of Library Deans stand in full support of the University of California (UC) in [their decision](https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/) to not renew its subscriptions with Elsevier after protracted negotiations.

The UC’s firm stand is one that serves scholars of the world, including the citizens of the great State of California. The [California Master Plan for Higher Education](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&ved=2ahUKEwivyOjA3dfhAhUBwcQHHcKaCwUQFjABegQIABAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fucfuture.universityofcalifornia.edu%2Ffiles%2Fpdf%2Fca_masterplan_summary.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2tVdFkGrWhuuva23-kA6xz) “created a system that combined exceptional quality with broad access for students.” In today’s world of diversity, inclusion, and equity, the idea that research and scholarship written by UC and CSU faculty and funded by taxpayers is not accessible across all educational systems and to all citizens is a travesty.

In a few months, the CSUs will begin negotiations with Elsevier, the world’s [largest and most profitable](https://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-uc-elsevier-20181207-story.html) scientific publisher, as our Elsevier Science Direct subscription is up for renewal in December 2019. We expect a repeat of past practices: another price increase that exceeds inflation and state budget allocations and student tuition and fee payments.

We are continuing conversations with our administrators, faculty, and students as to the true costs of academic publishing and research. We are educating our campuses on open access options and other ways in which we can ensure that our scholarship is open and accessible. We also hope to find a shared path forward, in partnership with Elsevier.

We are thankful to our UC colleagues and to many others who have added their voices to exposing unsustainable academic publishing practices, in which for-profit companies package and sell the intellectual output of our university professors and researchers.

Signed,

Curtis M. Asher

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