

# MONITORING THE TRANSITION TO

**OPEN ACCESS**

**DECEMBER 2017**

## ANNEXE 3

# REGIONAL COMPARISON OF OPEN ACCESS



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### THE UK COMPARED WITH THE USA AND CHINA

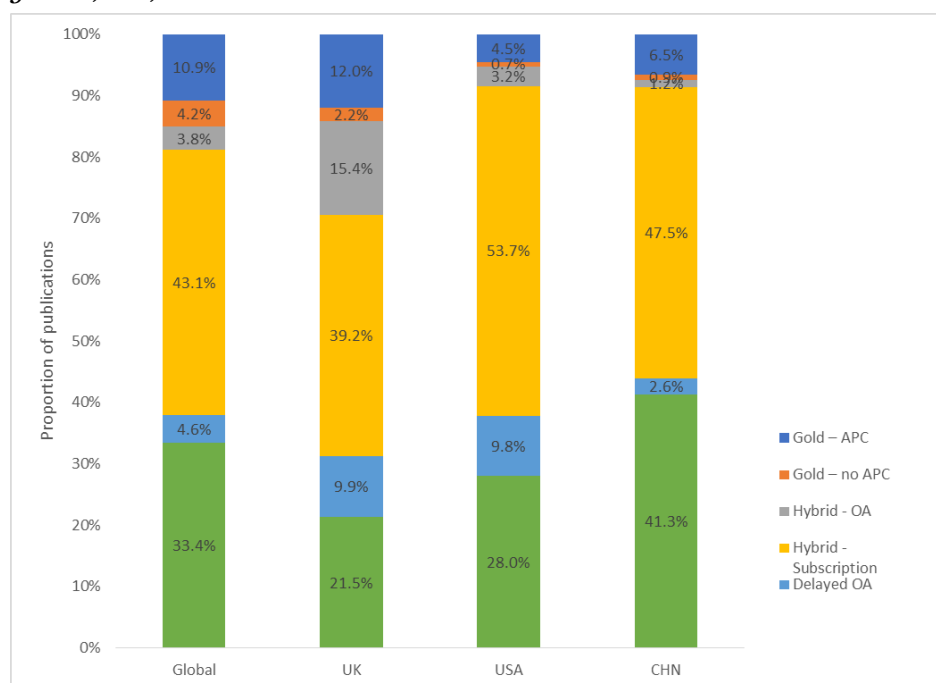
#### *Introduction*

The main report provides an analysis of the take-up of open access (OA) options, along with comparisons between the UK and global averages. In this annexe, we use the same data and samples to assess take-up in the USA and China.

#### *Proportions of articles published under immediate Gold OA terms*

In 2016, 30% of UK-authored articles were published under immediate Gold OA terms, as compared with the 19% global average. However, both figures were much higher than the 8% to 9% for articles published by USA or Chinese authors. In the two countries with the largest shares of global articles, take-up of Gold OA is thus less than half the global average, whereas in the UK it is well over 50% higher than that average. The scale of publishing by USA and Chinese authors means that they exert significant weight in determining – and depressing – the global average. The implication is that many other countries, in addition to the UK, must show rates of take-up of Gold OA significantly higher than that global average of 19%.

*Figure 1: Proportions of articles published in 2016 under different publishing models, global, UK, USA and China*



*Note: APC = article processing charge*

### Overall proportions of articles accessible under OA terms

As in the main report, in order to estimate the overall proportions of OA articles, we need to consider those that are published Gold OA, those published in ‘delayed OA’ journals (where articles are made accessible on the publisher’s platform at a defined time after publication), and those made accessible by posting in a repository or other site. We have also taken into account the age of articles, and the time when they are made accessible after publication. As noted in the main report, 25% of global articles in 2016 were accessible immediately on publication, rising to 32% within 12 months. For UK articles, 37% were accessible immediately, rising to 54% within 12 months.

Figure 2 indicates that for USA-authored articles, 17% were accessible immediately, and 25% within 12 months. However, these figures were skewed significantly in favour of Green OA. Thus within these totals, rates of readily accessible online postings – at 8% immediately and 19% within 12 months – were significantly ahead of the global average, and slightly ahead also of the UK. In other words, while USA authors’ take-up of Gold OA was around a quarter of the level of UK authors’, they were slightly more ready to take up Green OA. They were also slightly ahead in the proportion of articles published in ‘delayed OA’ journals. For Chinese-authored articles, 11% were accessible immediately, and 13% within 12 months. While those figures are below those for the USA, Chinese authors showed higher take-up of Gold OA than those in the USA (even though they were below the global average). Take-up of Green OA was notably low, however: only 3% of articles were readily accessible online either immediately, or within 12 months.

Figure 2: Proportion of articles in 2016 published under immediate Gold OA or accessible within 24 months via Green OA online postings in line with journal policies, global, UK, USA and China

