

SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN

Frequently asked questions

Practical Action Publishing is in the process of transitioning its journals *Waterlines* and *Enterprise Development Microfinance* from the current hybrid model to fully Open Access via a Subscribe to Open (S2O) model, and this will be completed by 1 January 2022. This exciting shift will be made possible thanks to the continued support of our library and organisational partners across the world.

Practical Action Publishing is proud to put transformative knowledge into the hands of people who need it most. We are delighted to be part of this exciting movement across the scholarly publishing landscape towards the opening of content, particularly for authors and readers working in limited-resource contexts. This movement is also propelled by the increasingly urgent stipulations from institutions, research funders and donors that all outputs from funded research should be available Open Access.

What is S2O and why is it so beneficial?

S2O is a model of sustainable Open Access for journals in which institutions and organisations continue to “subscribe” to the journals that their communities value by paying a modest annual subscription fee to support the opening of the same high-quality content as was previously published under a conventional subscription model. The S2O model is a form of subscription and financial support that enables all journal content to be published Open Access, ensuring it is available for everyone everywhere to read. In addition, subscribers benefit from exclusive free access to all previous volumes from 2000 onwards last five years.

With Open Access, everyone benefits – especially the change-makers in local communities who need access to relevant solutions to some of the world’s toughest problems. By supporting the S2O model, and subscribing to our journals, you can offer an opportunity to support researchers and practitioners from lower-resourced contexts or fields, where paying individual article processing charges (APCs) is less (or not at all) feasible.

What happens if my institution can’t participate in S2O?

Big change starts small

T +44(0) 1926 634501 | E publishinginfo@practicalaction.org.uk | www.practicalaction.org/publishing | VAT No. GB 880 9924 76 | Company Reg. No. 1159018 | Registered office – Practical Action Publishing, 27a Albert Street, Rugby, CV21 2SG, United Kingdom | Practical Action Publishing Ltd is the wholly owned publishing arm of Practical Action, Reg. Charity No. 247257

If we can't generate enough support, the journals will remain closed to non-subscribers, so that we are able to cover their production costs. However, those libraries and organisations who have renewed all of their subscriptions under the new S2O model, plus those new libraries who have joined in support, will continue to have access to the journals they have subscribed to.

We hope that the support is found to keep the journals open to everyone, and thank you for your help in doing so.

What licence applies to the S2O content?

Authors whose articles are accepted will publish their articles under a Creative Commons CC-BY-CC-ND licence.

Subscribers are asked to read and accept our conditions of access.

What statistics are provided for S2O subscribers?

Usage reports and COUNTER 5 reporting is provided for all S2O subscribing libraries/organisations.

I belong to an institution which holds an S2O subscription to one or both of these journals. Will my submissions be automatically accepted for publication?

Afraid not. All articles submitted to the journals – by authors from subscribing and non-subscribing institutions alike – will be assessed on their own merit, following our rigorous peer review system.

How is S2O pricing determined and how do I subscribe?

Practical Action Publishing's S2O model ensures editorial rigour, high production values, and robust online editions. Existing subscribers will be asked to pay just £140 per year, and new subscribers £180.

Ongoing support for S2O from current subscribers is as simple as annually renewing your current subscription(s). We are working with our partner EBSCO, and others, so that invoicing and renewals happen through the usual subscription channels. However, we can also work with you directly if you prefer.

Big change starts small

If I have previously subscribed to past issues will I retain access to those issues once I have subscribed to S2O?

The short answer is: Yes! The customer will retain post-cancellation perpetual access to any years of content which their subscription previously included.

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