



Subscribe-to-Open: A new open access publishing model

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Fiesole Retreat

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What is open access?

Open Access is the **free, immediate, online availability** of research articles coupled with the **rights to use** these articles fully in the digital environment.

Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)

<https://sparcopen.org/open-access/>



Diversity of OA models

“27 business models and strategies that can be deployed by publishers to transition successfully to OA were published.”

Society Publishers Accelerating Open access and Plan S (SPA-OPS) project

“Traditional” Open Access models

- **Gold Open Access.** Supported by APCs
- **Diamond Open Access.** Sponsored by societies
- **Green Open Access.** Self-archiving policy

Transformative models

- **Transformative agreements (TA)**
 - Publish & Read
 - Read & Publish
- **Subscribe to Open (S2O) NEW**

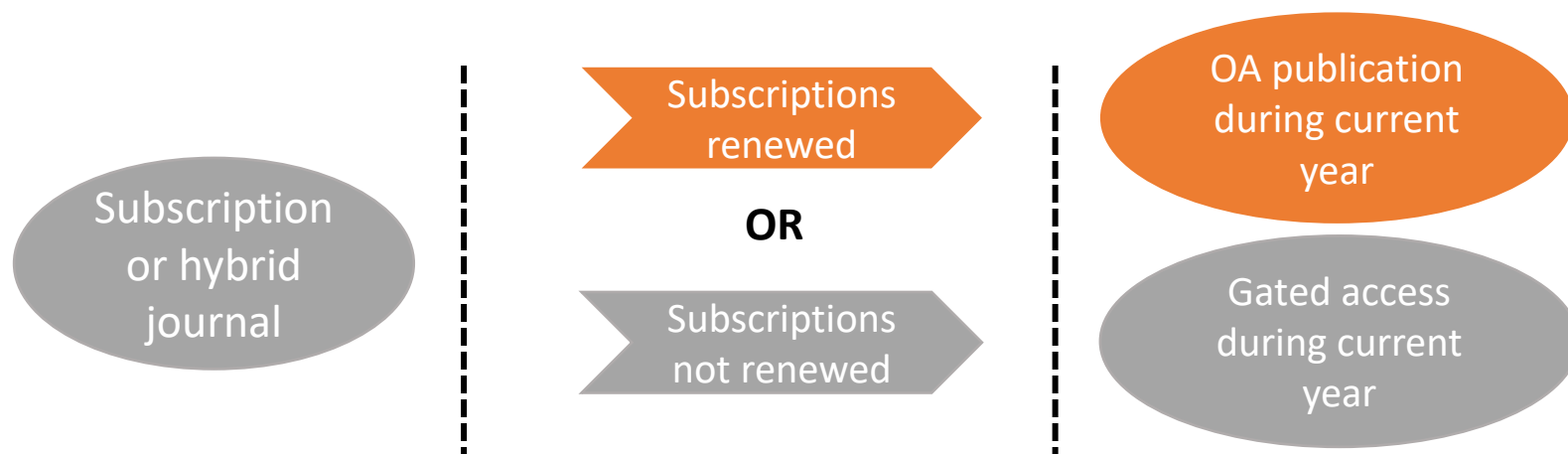


Subscribe-to-Open (S2O)

Subscribe to Open (S2O) is a business model that uses subscription payments to convert gated access journals to full open access (OA).

<https://www.annualreviews.org/page/subscriptions/subscribe-to-open>

Subscription renewals



Benefits of the S2O model

Libraries	Publishers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guaranteed access without interruption• Demonstrate commitment to OA• Reinforces support role for researchers• No change in processes• Cost neutral• Reserved benefits: archives... *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate commitment to OA• Financial security (but “free riding” risk)• No change in processes• Easier to implement for small/society publishers than T.A.s• Can be a long-term model
Authors	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication in OA with no APCs• No administrative burden• Comply with funder requirements• Retain copyright of articles *• Wider dissemination of content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing demand for OA• Reproducibility of science• Diversity of publishing models

* Depends on publisher



Why "equitable open access"?



“The Subscribe-to-Open model is a very attractive solution for Research4Life authors because they don’t even have to worry about asking for a fee waiver.”

Andrea Powell, STM Outreach Director and Publisher Coordinator, Research4Life

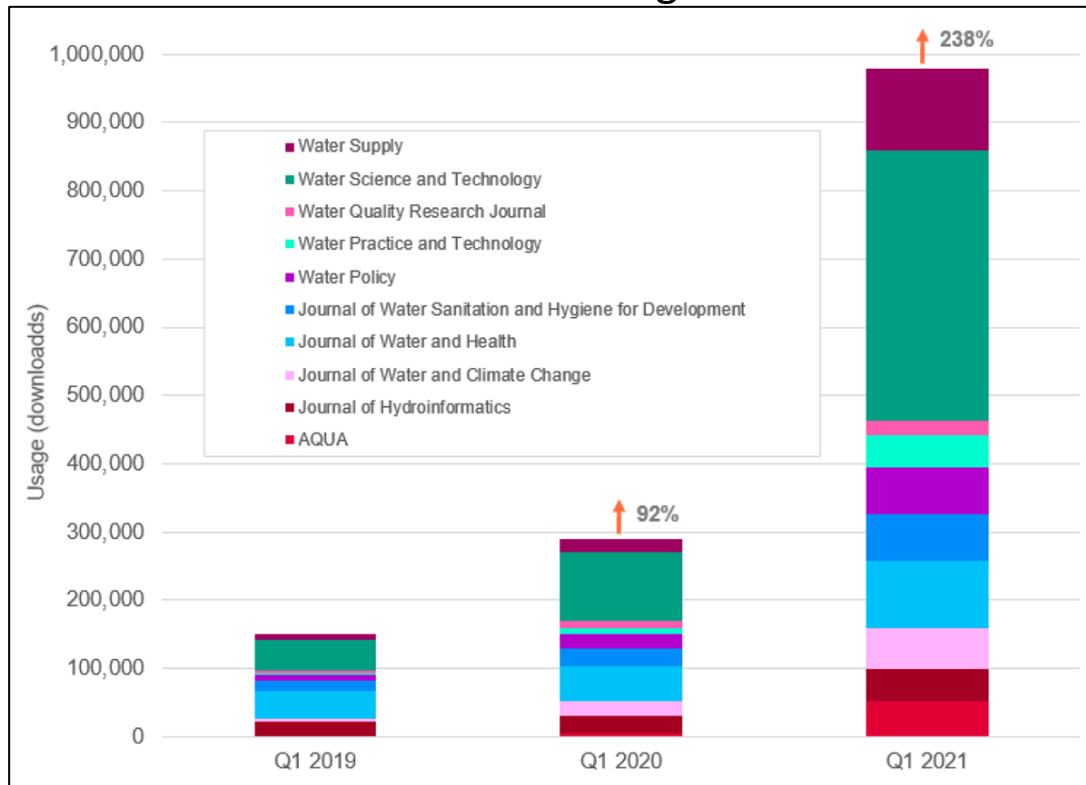
Who should subscribe?

- Institutions whose members use a journal’s content (historical subscribers)
- Institutions whose members publish in the journal



Effect of S2O on usage

IWA Publishing



“Publishers still have difficulties collecting accurate usage data from non-subscribing institutions; data which is essential to recruiting new S2O subscribers and thus more equitably distributing the cost of sustaining the S2O model.”

IWA Publishing

Open access through Subscribe to Open: a society publisher's implementation

<https://insights.uksg.org/articles/10.1629/uksg.567/>

List of S2O publishers

The State of Subscribe-to-Open Among Scholarly Publishers

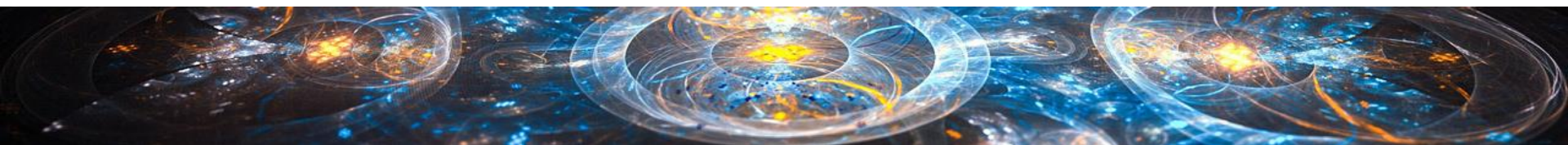
Publisher	2020	2021	2022	2023
Amsterdam University Press	5	5	5	5
Annual Reviews	5	8	8	51
Berghahn Books ^{a, b, c, d}	13	13	13	13
Brepols ^a	-	-	1	1
De Gruyter	-	1	12	12
Duncker & Humblot	-	-	2	2
EDP Sciences	1	6	6	6
EMS Press ^{a, b}	-	10	10	10
IWA Publishing ^c	-	10	10	10
Liverpool University Press	-	-	2	2
Mathematical Science Publishers	-	-	-	5
Pluto Journals ^{a, b, c}	-	21 ^e	21	21
Total	24	74	78	138

S2O Community of Practice <https://subscribetoopencommunity.org/>





Subscribe-to-Open at EDP Sciences



EDP Sciences S2O journals

Journal	Year joined S2O programme	Year published in open access		
		2020	2021	2022
MMNP	2020	OA	OA	OA
ESAIM: M2AN	2021	Subs	OA	OA
ESAIM: COCV	2021	Subs	OA	OA
ESAIM: PS	2021	Subs	OA	OA
RAIRO-RO	2021	Subs	OA	OA
RAIRO-ITA	2021	Subs	OA	OA
 Astronomy & Astrophysics	2022	Subs	Subs	OA



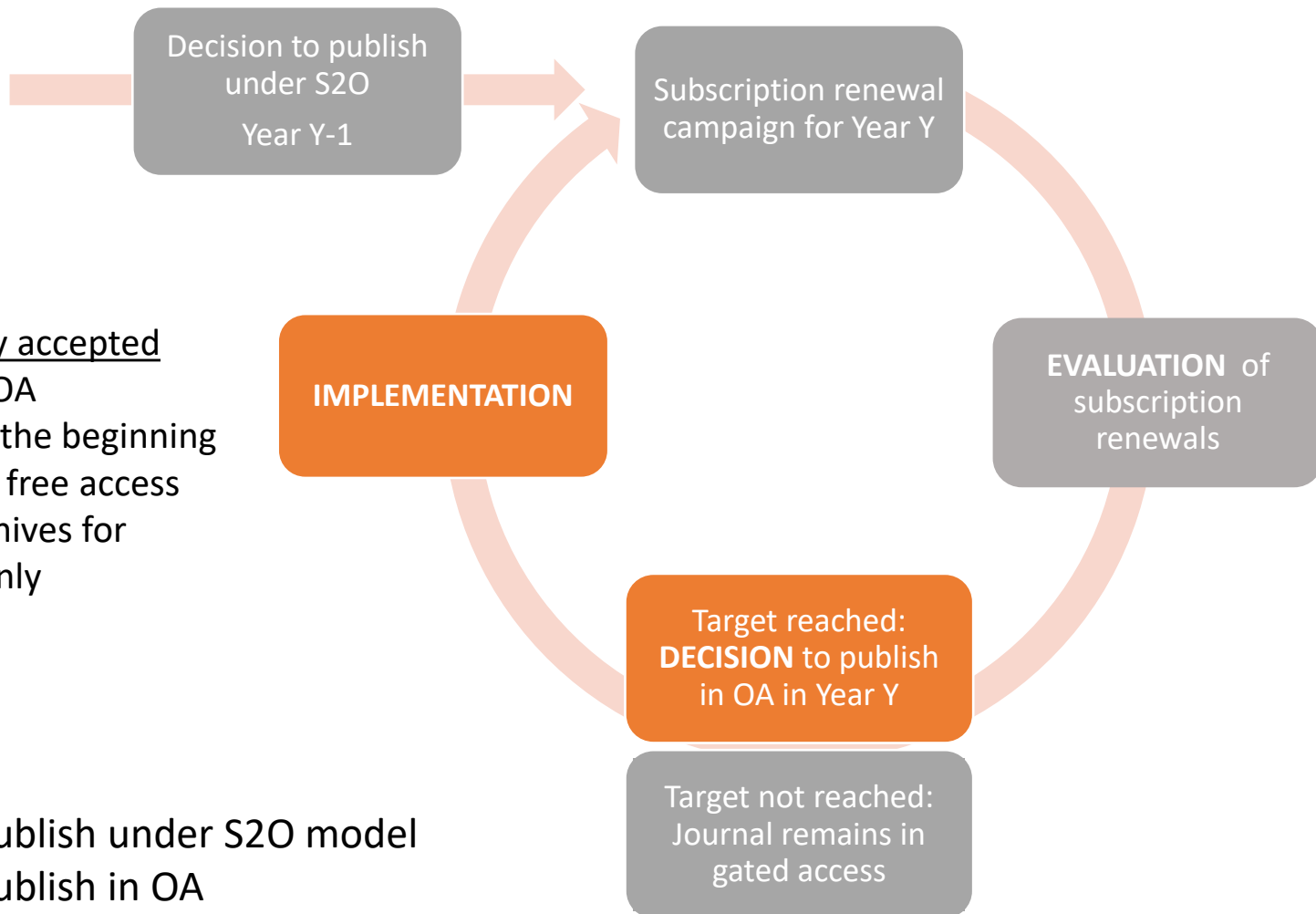
Maths S2O programme

S2O: part of EDPS strategy to transition remaining subscription journals to OA



The EDPS S2O cycle

Subscription or hybrid journal



- Articles newly accepted published in OA
- Articles from the beginning of the year in free access
- Access to archives for subscribers only

Two steps:

1. Decision to publish under S2O model
2. Decision to publish in OA





Attachment of the maths community to Diamond OA

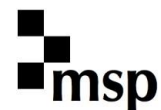
S2O: The ideal OA transition model for maths journals?



6 S2O journals OA since 2021



10 S2O journals OA since 2021



5 S2O journals in 2023

Alternative: Diamond OA platforms (Centre Mersenne in France...)





Tradition of Green OA in astronomy

 **CORE JOURNALS**

 **Four journals** > 35% of refereed astronomy literature

 Governed by **Learned Societies**, published by commercial publishers

- American Astronomical Society (AAS) / IOP Publishing
- Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) / Oxford Univ. Press
- European Southern Observatory (ESO) / EDP Sciences

 **Community of researchers** strongly influences publishing developments



Uta Grothkopf, ESO  PRL Colloquium, March 2022 

 **READ ACCESS**

 Wide-spread use of **Green OA** (arXiv/astro-ph)

 Core journals digitised and **freely available back to vol. 1**

 Publishers provide **temporary access** to selected recent articles

 Access to core journal content often **one year after publication**

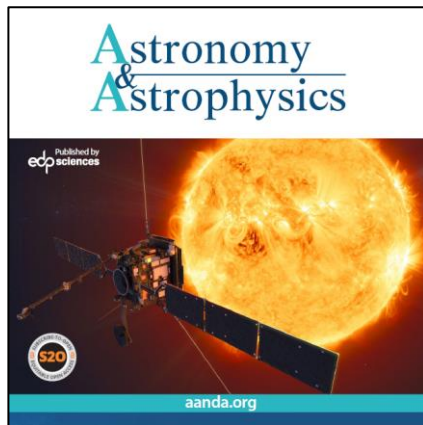


Uta Grothkopf, ESO  PRL Colloquium, March 2022 

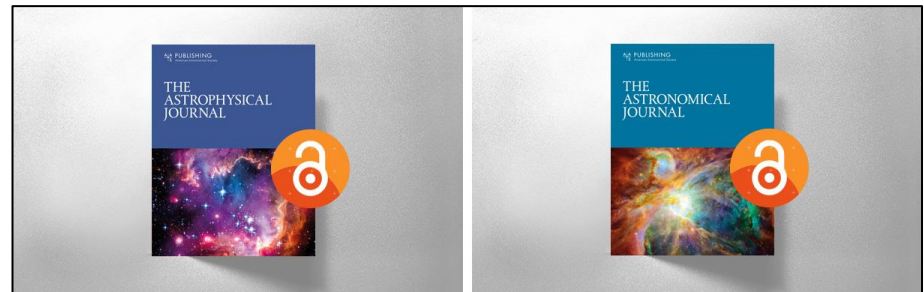
OA in astronomy

In 2022: transition of 3 out of the 4 core astronomy journals to full OA

A&A=> Subscribe-to-Open



AJ and ApJ => Gold OA



Transition

Maths journals

Subscription
(no APCs)



T.A.:
French OA agreement



Subscribe-to-Open
Revenue →

+ Funding FNSO, CNRS

Astronomy&Astrophysics

Hybrid
(APCs)



T.A.:
French OA agreement,
Max Plack

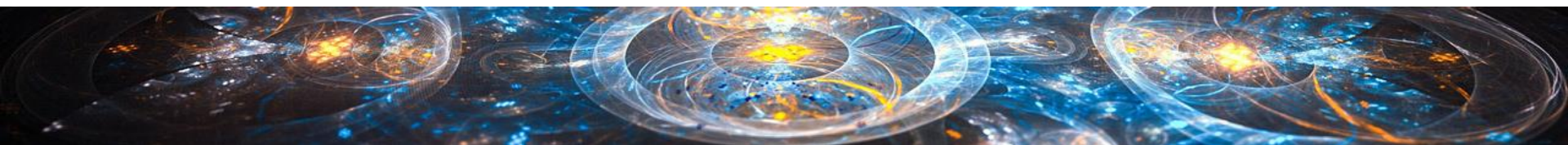


Subscribe-to-Open
Revenue ↘





Libraries and S20



Sustainability of S2O model: Librarian survey

Survey conducted by S2O Community of Practice in 2021

- Respondents who were either *somewhat familiar* or *very familiar* with the S2O model ranked a multiple-choice list of 12 different features which they felt would encourage their institution to participate in S2O offers from publishers as (see Q13 of Excel file and table below for more detail):

Transparent pricing	92.60%
Cost neutral	91.70%
Ease of implementation and/or transition	72.70%
Commitment to full transition to open access	67.80%
Metadata support	56.20%
Progress reports on participation	52.10%
Maintaining the librarian's role in collection development	50.40%
Open access article usage data from the local community	50.40%
OA publishing	47.90%
Additional benefits to S2O subscribers	47.90%
Commitment to a rapid transition to open access	47.90%
More knowledge of the S2O model	44.60%

S2O Online Survey Report 2021 <https://subscribetoopencommunity.org/resources/>



Transparency

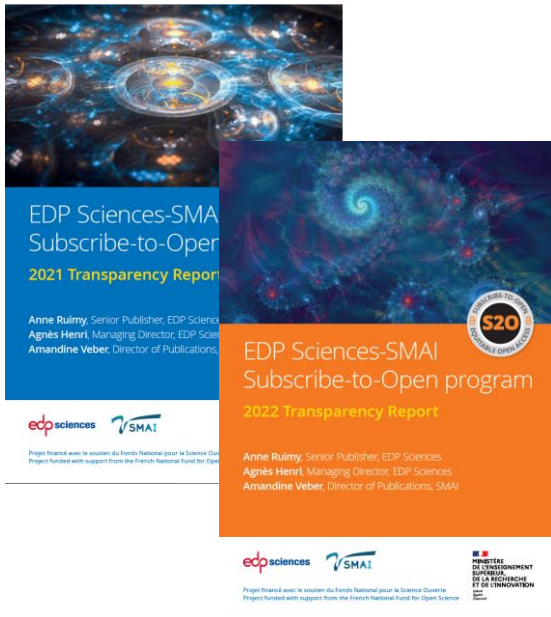


Table 6a. Percentage of subscriptions renewed at key dates throughout 2021 compared to baseline year (2020). Highlighted: 95% renewal reached.

Date	MMNP	ESAIM: COCV	ESAIM: MZAN	ESAIM:PS	RAIRO-RO	RAIRO-ITA
23/02/2021	89.3	77.2	81.7 (O) 82 (P+O)	93.0	77.3	79.2
30/04/2021	100.0	88.6	86.6 (O) 88.7 (P+O)	100.0	86.4	89.6

Figure 2. Breakdown of publication costs for the portfolio of maths journals.

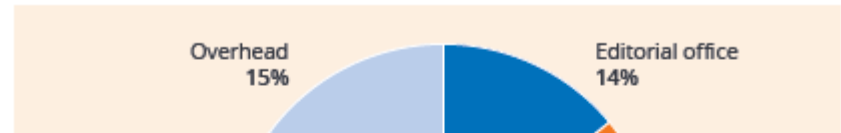
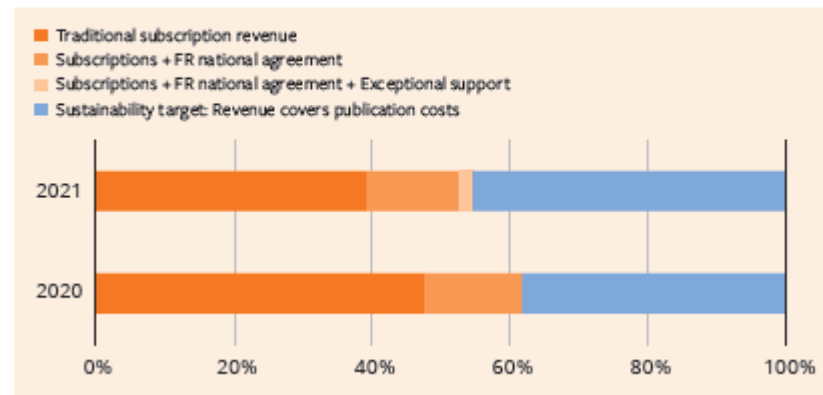


Figure 3. Difference between revenue and publication costs for the entire maths portfolio (% production costs), on the basis of an average publication cost per article of €1000. The sustainability target is for revenue to cover publication costs.



Survey of A&A subscribers

Survey of A&A subscribers conducted by EDP Sciences in March 2022

9. Please indicate whether the following subscriber benefits would make it more or less likely that you would subscribe in 2023, or make no difference.

[Plus de détails](#)

■ More likely to subscribe ■ Equally likely to subscribe ■ Less likely to subscribe ■ Don't know

"Freemium"-type model: reserved access to certain article formats for subscribers (e.g. PDF)

Financial transparency report

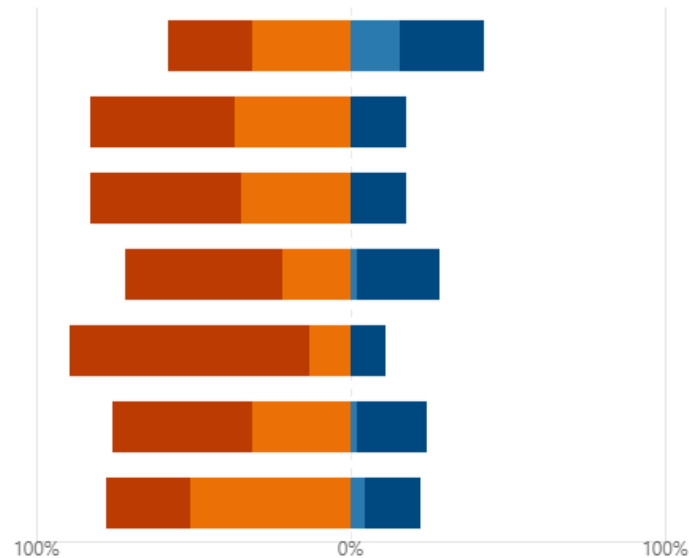
Personalized usage data report

Discount on page charges for authors from subscribing institutions who are not in an A&A...

Discount on subscription price

Being credited for the contribution of my institution to open access publication of A&A

More information about the Subscribe-to-Open model



“Our budget is very tight. We are keeping our subscription in order to support the S2O model as much as possible, but if we have to cut subscriptions, it is very likely that S2O subscriptions will be cut, the content remaining potentially accessible. That's why I don't know what the long-term future of this model may be.”

A&A survey respondent

More information

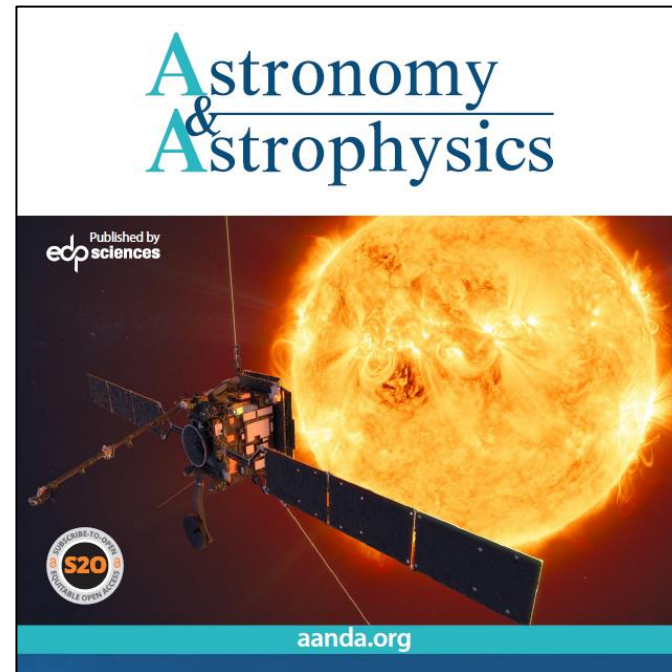


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 <p>RAIRO - Operations Research RAIRO - RO is an international journal of high-level pure and applied research on Operations Research. It includes theory and methodology papers, case studies and state-of-the-art surveys. rairo-ro.org</p>	 <p>RAIRO - Theoretical Informatics and Applications RAIRO - TA publishes original high-level research papers in the area of theoretical computer science and its applications including game theory, quantum computation, cryptography. rairo-ita.org</p>

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