

Achieving Open Access and Cost Saving through Consortia Agreements at ZB MED, Germany

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As Germany's central information and research centre for data and information in the life sciences, ZB MED provides sustainable access to information, literature and data. The negotiation of consortia deals is one of many information services ZB MED provides to the scientific community in Germany and its libraries. ZB MED's focus is on the life sciences, but national consortia deals with bigger publishers are not limited to those disciplines.

Overall, consortia negotiations attempt to achieve the following: 1. Increase access to scientific information in texts and databases. 2. Achieve savings through group-buying. 3. Support the transformation of scientific information and data to open access.

Currently, there is a diversity of consortia agreements in Germany covering

- ▶ Subscription agreements
- ▶ Publish and Read agreements (so called transformative agreements)
- ▶ Gold OA agreements
- ▶ Diamond agreements

The consortia negotiation process follows individual steps - from clarifying requirements to negotiating with providers and communication through to implementation. It varies depending on the consortium to be established.

The process is influenced by many different instances: current market, consumers, public tasks, citizens and scientific users. The aim is to achieve the most direct and least costly access to information and publication.

Results of ZB MED consortia work:

- ▶ 3 Publication Framework Agreements – Gold OA,
- ▶ 6 transformative agreements (Read& Publish)
- ▶ 8 subscription agreements (journals, databases)
- ▶ Cost savings for German libraries in 2023: 1,56 Mio €, in 2024: 2,26 Mio €

