

Improved Plan S principles raise hope of more effective policies soon

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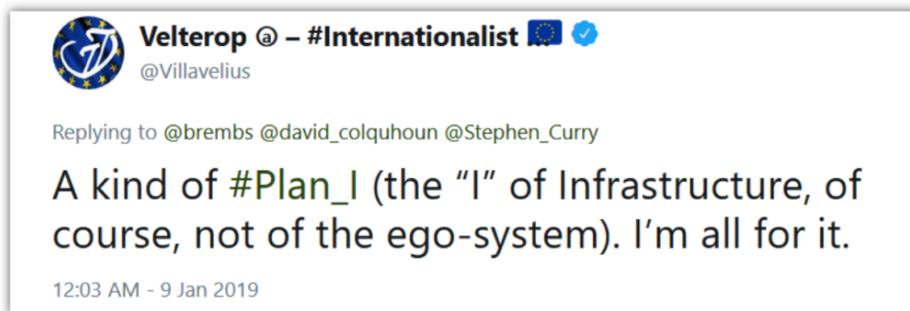
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Yesterday, cOAlition S published their updated [principles and implementation guidelines](#) for [#PlanS](#), together with the [rationale](#) behind the update. This constitutes a very much welcome effort, as evidence of the increasing awareness among funders as to their potential leverage in infrastructure modernization, at a time when institutions have apparently abandoned their faculty completely.

These policies would have been a much-needed initiative about eight years ago, when there was still a problem of access to the scholarly literature, when Unpaywall didn't exist and sci-hub had just launched. Today, we have [so many ways to access our literature](#), that these policies seem more like beating a dead horse. From this perspective, Plan S targets the wrong actors (individuals rather than institutions) to achieve a minor goal (Open Access), when our infrastructure [rewards unreliable research](#), [costs ten times too much](#) and [lacks crucial functionalities](#). The three components of the scholarly infrastructure emergency ([reliability, affordability and functionality](#); RAF) remain untouched by Plan S while a (today) minor problem receives more attention than it deserves. In a way, Plan S seems more like a band aid for a small cut on a hand while the large, malignant tumor remains untreated.

It is in the power of cOAlition S funders to set policies that would tackle the RAF tumor/emergency and help solve the minor access problem as an added benefit: [require institutions](#) to provide modern scholarly infrastructure before any research funds can flow. Given the overall aim and language of Plan S, one can remain optimistic that cOAlition S will deliver such more adequately targeted, modern and hence effective policies in the near future. Perhaps we can read about a "Plan I" (for infrastructure) in the near future?

