



# *Open Access in China*

## *Current Status and Future*

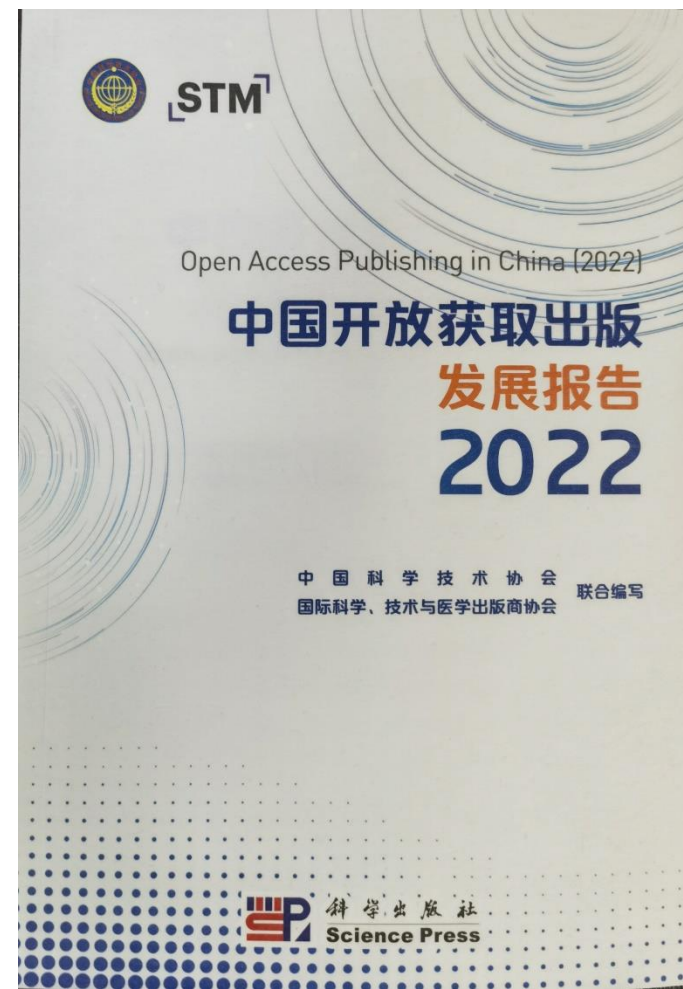
**中国的开放获取：现状与未来**



**ZHANG Tieming**

*President, Society of China University Journals*





## 中国开放获取出版发展报告 (2022)

English Version: <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.21708113>

中文版下载地址: [https://www.cast.org.cn/art/2022/12/15/art\\_457\\_204834.html](https://www.cast.org.cn/art/2022/12/15/art_457_204834.html)



# *Contents*

---

***Policies and Guidelines***

***Current Open Access in China***

***Future OA Development in China***





# 01

## ***Policies and Guidelines***

# Governmental levels



**2002,2004**

Two national documents require that scientific knowledge generated by public funding and scientific infrastructure built with financial funds be open and shared

**2014**

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang clearly expresses support for establishing an open access mechanism for scientific knowledge funded by public finance



**2012**

The State Council issues a policy document strengthening the openness and sharing of science and technology resources

**2018**

The State Council issues the "Measures for the Management of Scientific Data": scientific data formed with government funding to be open and shared

**China currently does not yet have clear open science policies and guidelines at the national level.**

**2019**

“Suggestions on Deepening Reform and Cultivating World-class STM Journals” emphasizes the need to expand and deepen international cooperation

**2022**

The "Initiative on International Cooperation in Scientific Research Behavior" directs Chinese researchers to adopt global open science and technology cooperation approaches

**2024**

XI Jinping: To build an open environment for scientific and technological innovation with global competitiveness, expand international exchanges and cooperation, strive to build a win-win partnership, and deeply participate in global academic governance.

**2021**

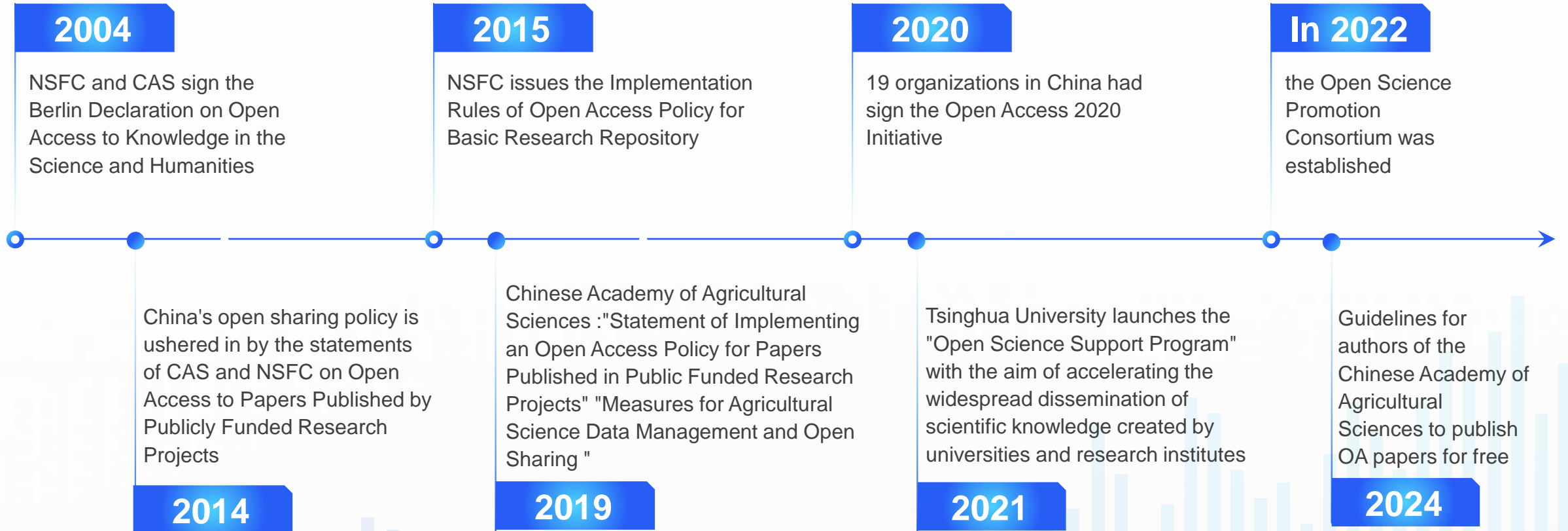
“Norms for the Construction of Digital Campuses in Higher Education Institutions (Trial)” mandates that institutional repositories be managed, discoverable, disseminated, and preserved. In 2021, "open science" officially appears in "Science and Technology Progress Law of the People's Republic of China“

**2023**

XI Jinping: China will continue to promote international scientific and technological cooperation with more open thinking and measures, build an open and innovative ecosystem with global partners, and work together to create an open, fair, just, and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development

**China currently does not yet have clear open science policies and guidelines at the national level.**

# Institutional level



More institutes should be involved in open science and open access in China. They play the key role.



# 02 *Current Open Access in China*



# *Current Open Access in China*



***OA Papers***

***OA Journals***

***Transformative Agreements***

***Platforms***

***APCs***

***Researchers' Knowledge on OA***

# International OA Papers by Researchers from China



## Number of papers from China:

**159640** (2011) → **742727** (2023)

(Average annual growth rate **13.7%**)

## Number of OA papers :

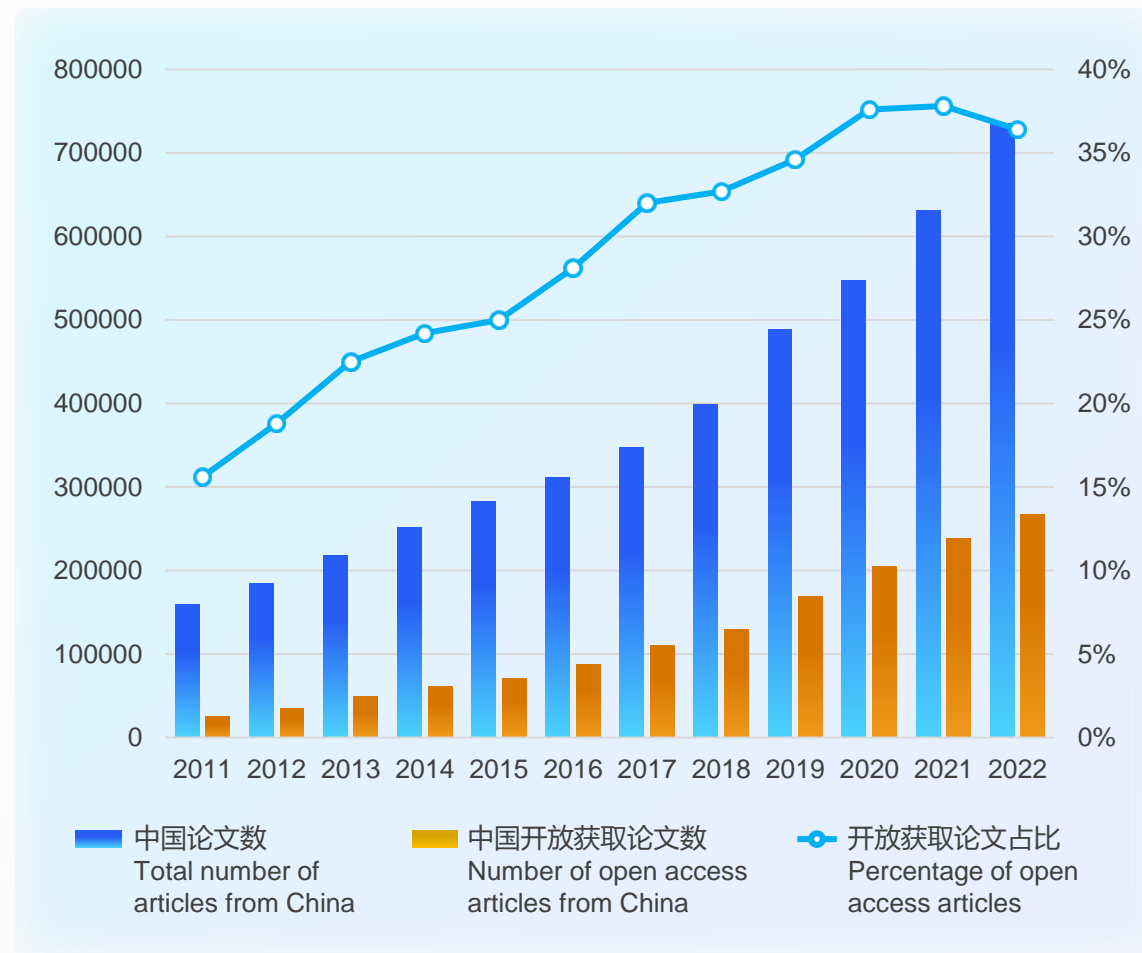
**25235**(2011) → **334080**(2023 )

(Average annual growth rate **24.0%**)

## Gold OA papers :

**14454**(2011, 57.3%) → **254420**(2023, 85.9%)

(Average annual growth rate **26.0%**)



Database: Clarivate's Science Citation Index; Literature types: Article and Review; Registered address of the paper includes China

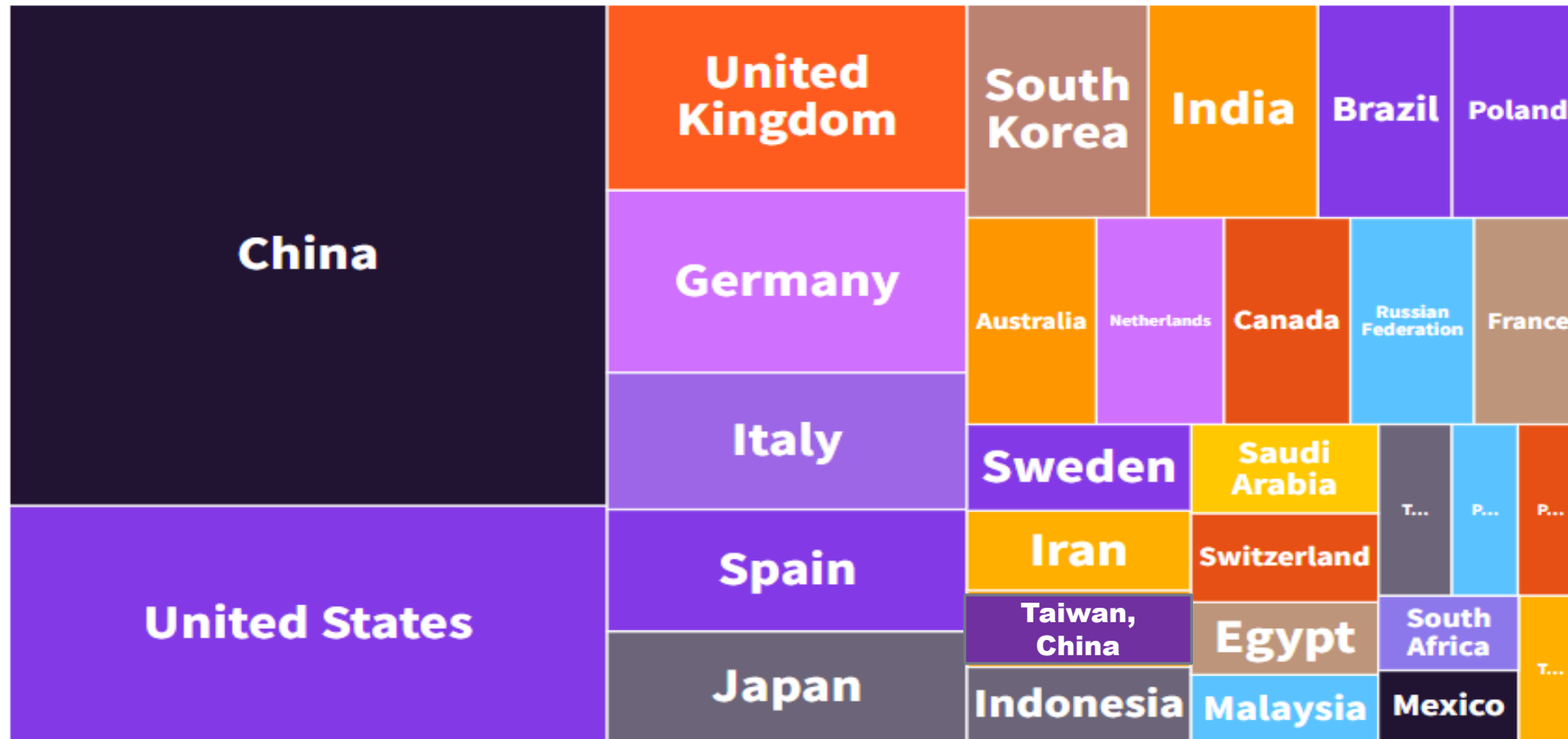
Articles published in international journals and open access articles of China, 2011-2021. Source: [Open Access Publishing in China 2022](#)



# Top 30 countries/regions in 2022; Output by access type

Select a view

Total **Gold** Green Bronze Subscription-only



STM:

Open Access  
Dashboard  
launch

<https://www.stm-assoc.org/oa-dashboard/>

Source: Scopus, 2023 • Countries/regions selected and ranked by number of

# Journal Publishing Models in China



In 2022, we analyzed 4963 scientific journals in China: 36.47% of them were involved in open access (29.40% of which were Bronze)

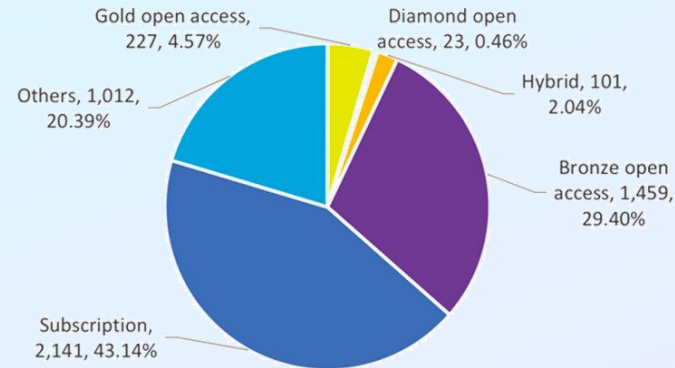


Figure 2-10 Distribution of scientific journals in China by publishing model

Among 428 English language journals, 271 are fully open access (63.3%), 122 hybrid (28.5%), 35 subscription (8.2%) .

A study\* showed that among all 90 high-potential journals from 2019 to 2021 of the Excellence Action Plan, 81 of them had websites, and all provided open access publishing, with 92.6% being fully open access.

\*Ding Z.Q., Li CH. W., 2022. Development of High-start Journals in China: Current Situation, Trends, and Cultivation. *Science-Technology & Publication*. 334, 21-27. 10.16510/j.cnki.kjyxcb.20221012.019



In May 2024, a research program funded by the Chinese Association for Science and Technology(CAST) showed that **there are 1800+ STM journals can be read, downloaded, and used openly**, accounting for more than one-third of the total 5164 STM journals in China. Among 1800+journals, **358 journals are fully open access**, while the remaining journals are mainly with unclear or non-standard CC licenses.



The Open Science Promotion Consortium(OSPC) is studying the transformation path of open access for Chinese STM journals, and giving guidance to journals to be open access.



**The OA Journal List** will be established to set examples and lead the OA transformation for STM journals in China.

# China's Transformative Agreements



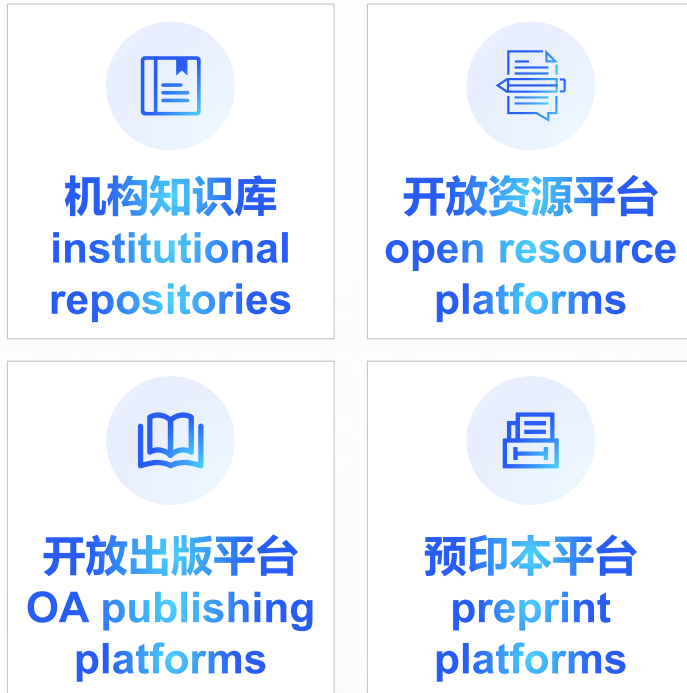
By January 2024, there are 20 TAs signed by 12 Chinese institutions, involving 8 international publishing institutions, covering various transformative models. **So far there is no large scale TA signed.**

Start date	Chinese institutions	International publishing organizations	Models
2020 2021	National Science Library, CAS (NSLC)	Oxford University Press Association for Computing Machinery The Royal Society of Chemistry	Read and Publish ACM Open
2021	Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences	Karger Press	APC Credit
2021	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	Cambridge University Press	Read & Publish
2021	Tsinghua University	Association for Computing Machinery	ACM Open
2022		Cambridge University Press	Read and Publish
2022		International Water Association (IWA)	Subscribe to Open (Ended)
2022	Institute of Microbiology, CAS	Microbiology Society	Publish and Read
2022	Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University	Cambridge University Press	Read & Publish
2022 2023	Wuhan university	IWA Microbiology Society	Read & Publish Publish & Read
2023	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences	Microbiology Society The Royal Society of Chemistry	Publish and Read
2023	Chang'an University	IWA	Read & Publish
2023	Shenzhen Pengcheng Laboratory	Association for Computing Machinery	ACM Open
2023	Westlake University	Association for Computing Machinery The Royal Society of Chemistry	ACM Open
2023 2024	Fudan University	Cambridge University Press Microbiology Society	Read & Publish Publish and Read

# China's Open Platforms



There are different open platforms in China in line with international category classifications



National Public Academic Platform

National Advanced Platform for S&T Information and Communication  
<https://napstic.istic.ac.cn/>

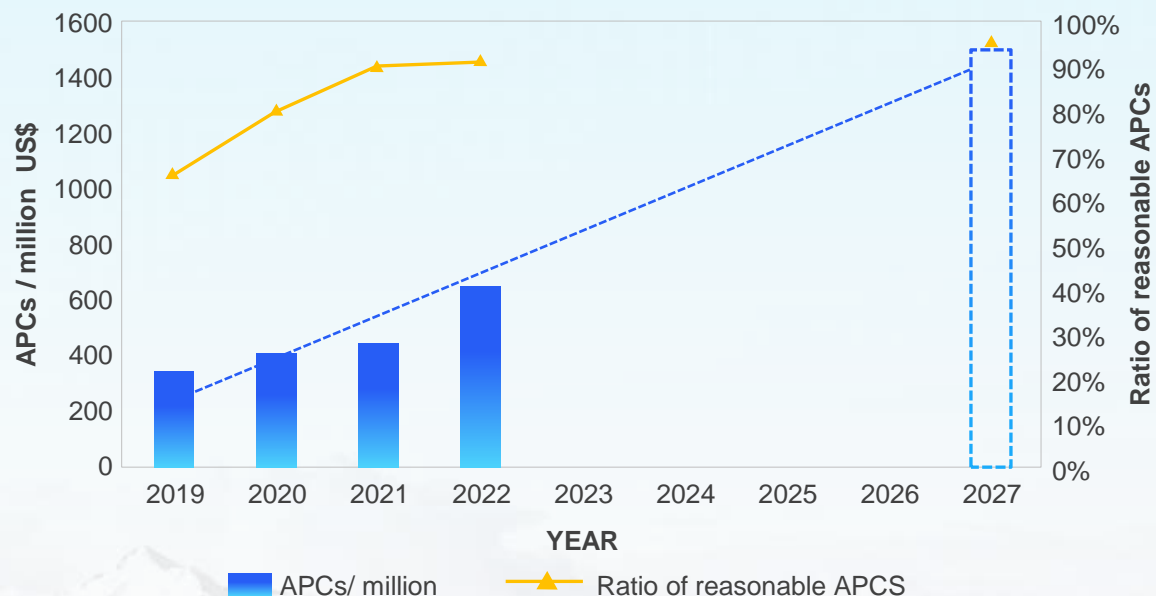


# APCs paid by Researchers in China



According to the data of **Global OA Journals and APC Monitoring Report** from 2019 to 2022 by the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the APCs paid by Chinese authors for international publishing show a rapid upward trend, of which about 10% are published in unreasonable APC journals. The APC model brings a huge economic burden to countries and institutions with a large volume of OA papers output.

## China International OA Papers APC Growth Trend 中国国际OA论文APC增长趋势图



## Unreasonable APC Journals:

Refers to those APC high premium journals, which are calculated based on their publication volume, influence (h5 index, IF, etc.) and other indicators, and their APC fees are significantly higher than those of journals at the same level as their peers.

Rui X., Zhao Zh.Y., Wang F., Chen X.F., Huang J.X, 2021.  
*Research on APC Monitoring and Abnormal Warning Model of Global OA Sci-Tech Journals. Library and Information Service, 65(8),42-50.*

[10.13266/j.issn.0252-3116.2021.08.005](https://doi.org/10.13266/j.issn.0252-3116.2021.08.005)

# Attitudes Towards Open Access by Researchers in China



From: Open Access Publishing in China 2022

## Knowledge of open access among researchers in China

中国科研人员对开放获取的了解程度

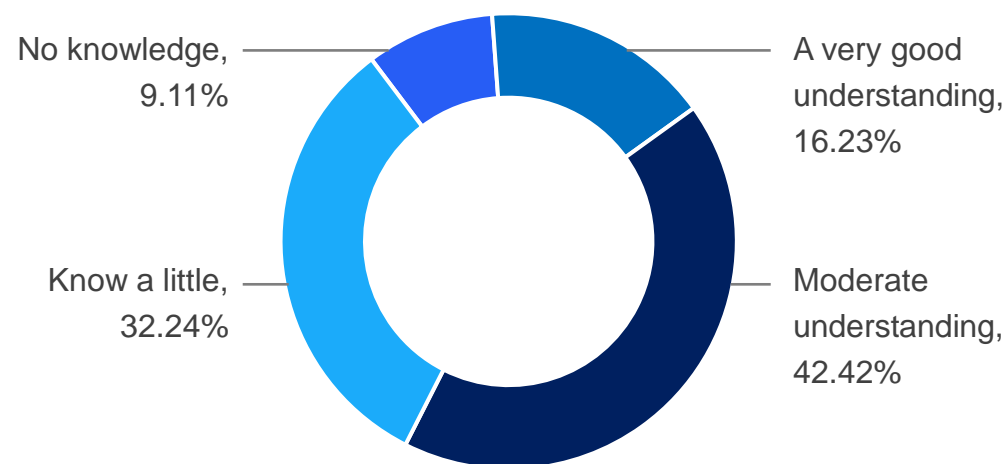
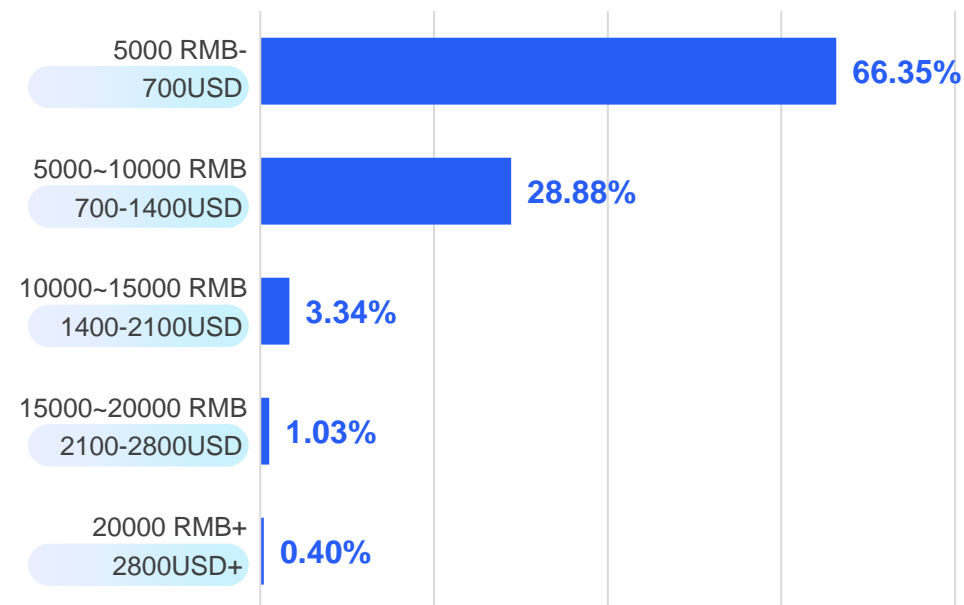


Figure 2-7 Knowledge of open access among researchers in China

## The acceptable range of APCs among researchers in China

中国科研人员能接受论文处理费的区间



For future open access publishing, please consider China's research output and the budgetary limits of Chinese researchers





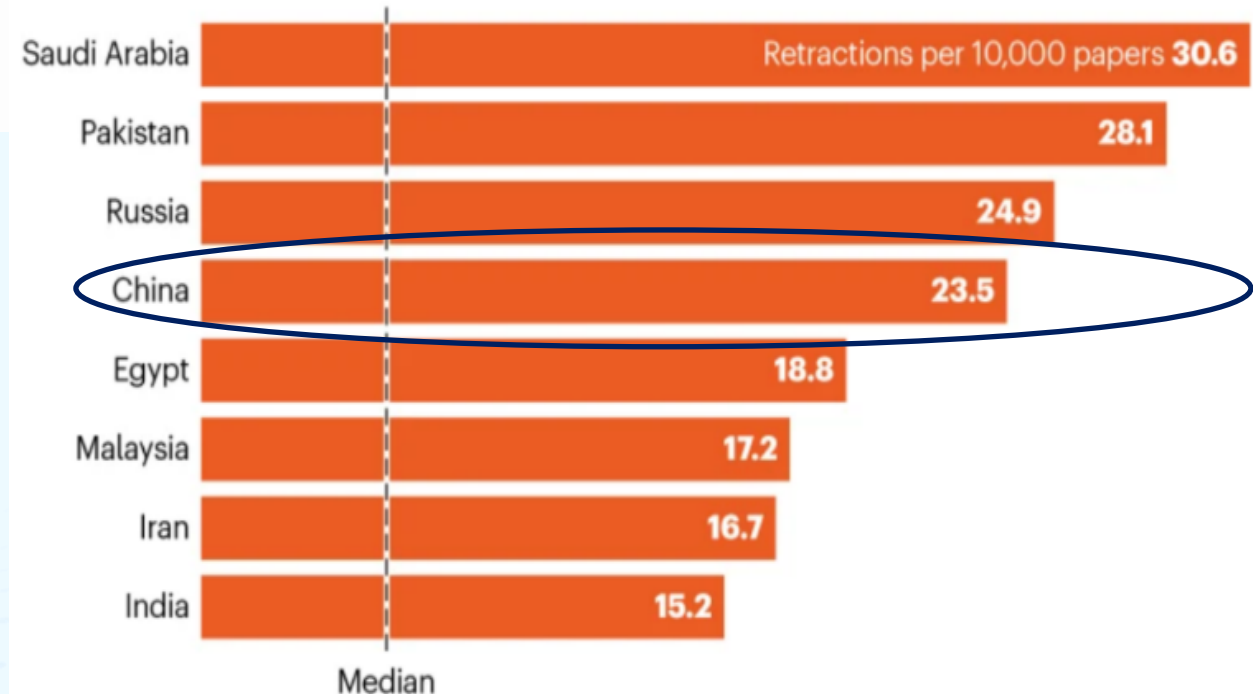
# 03

## *Future OA Development in China*

- There is currently no clear policy and guidance at the national level, and stakeholders such as government departments, academic institutions, funds, researchers, etc. do not have enough understanding and acknowledgement on open access.
- The lack of systematic supervision over OA papers in highly commercial and predatory OA journals has led to numerous quality and integrity issues, resulting in the flow of a large number of APCs and first publication rights to international publishers. At the same time, we also provided somebody with leverage to criticize us.
- Insufficient infrastructure construction of open access, inadequate support of standards, regulations and market system, and lack of education and incentive mechanisms.

## COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST RETRACTION RATES

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Russia and China have the highest retraction rates among countries with >100,000 papers\* published over the past two decades.



\*Total number of research papers according to Scopus: articles and reviews. Analysis excludes conference papers (and their retractions)

©nature

Figure from 《Nature》 (December 2023)

# *Future OA Development in China*



Governmental and  
Institutional Policy  
System

Quality Control System

Standard, Guidance and  
Education system

Infrastructure System  
(platforms, fundings,  
etc)

*The early warning list*  
The Recommended OA  
Journal List for  
Researchers and  
Institutions

Market System

# Future OA Development in China



- There will be a qualitative leap both in the scale and standardization of open access once China issues its open science policy.
- With the shift in China's academic evaluation policy to replace quantity with quality, the trend of rapid growth in research articles may change in the future, and it can be foreseen that the amount growth rate of OA articles published in international journals by Chinese authors will also slow down.
- Completely following Western OA pricing model is not sustainable for China. Reasonable pricing of APCs for Chinese authors and journals is critically important.
- Open access publishing in China still has huge opportunities and development space for international cooperation. Besides the open access articles and journals, future efforts can also focus on cooperation with Chinese publishing platforms.
- China will continue to closely cooperate with international publishing society to jointly address research integrity in open access and actively participate in international academic governance.



*THANK YOU*

