



Open Access Quo Vadis?

The Example of the American Chemical Society

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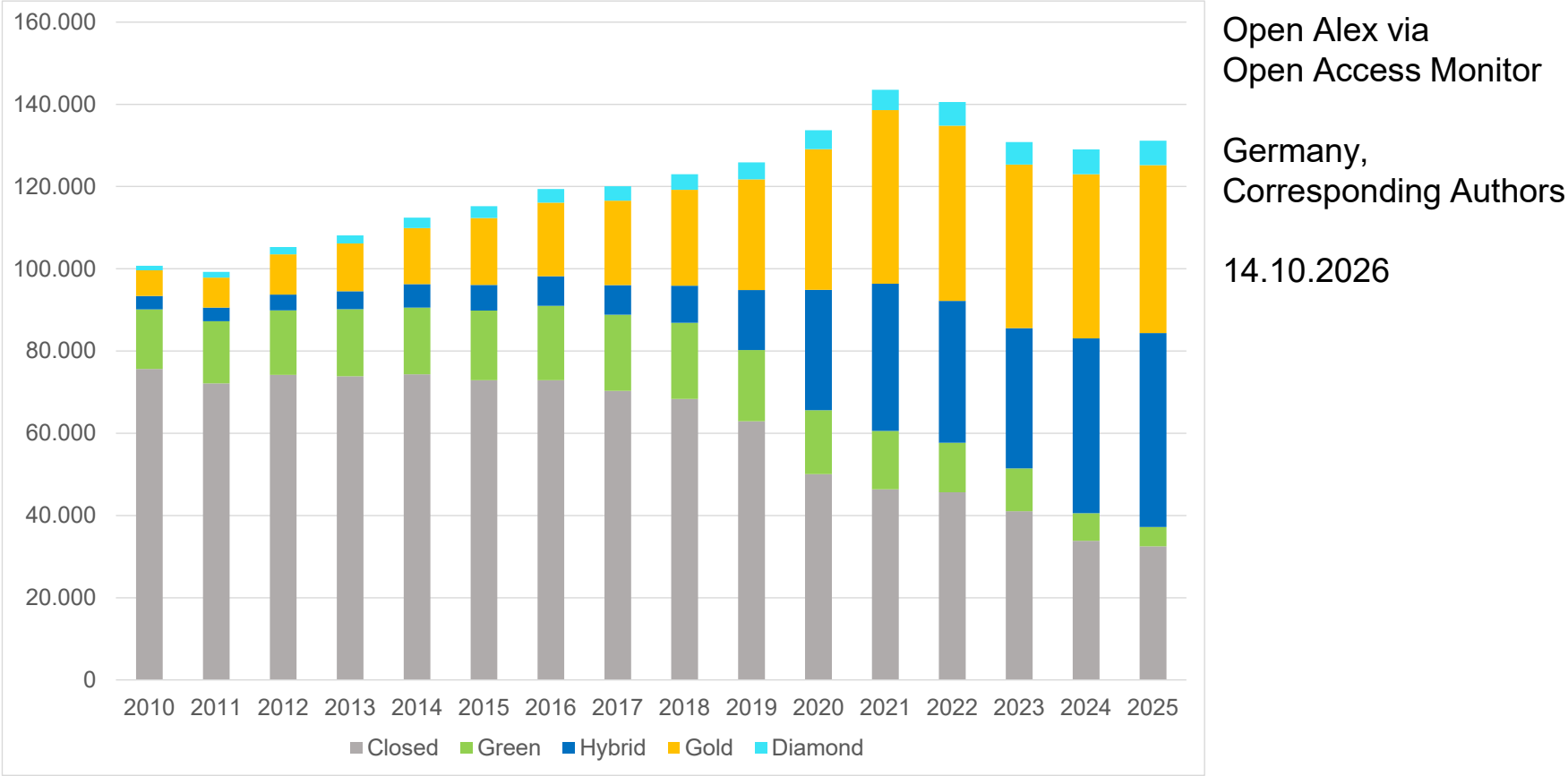
Member of the Helmholtz Association



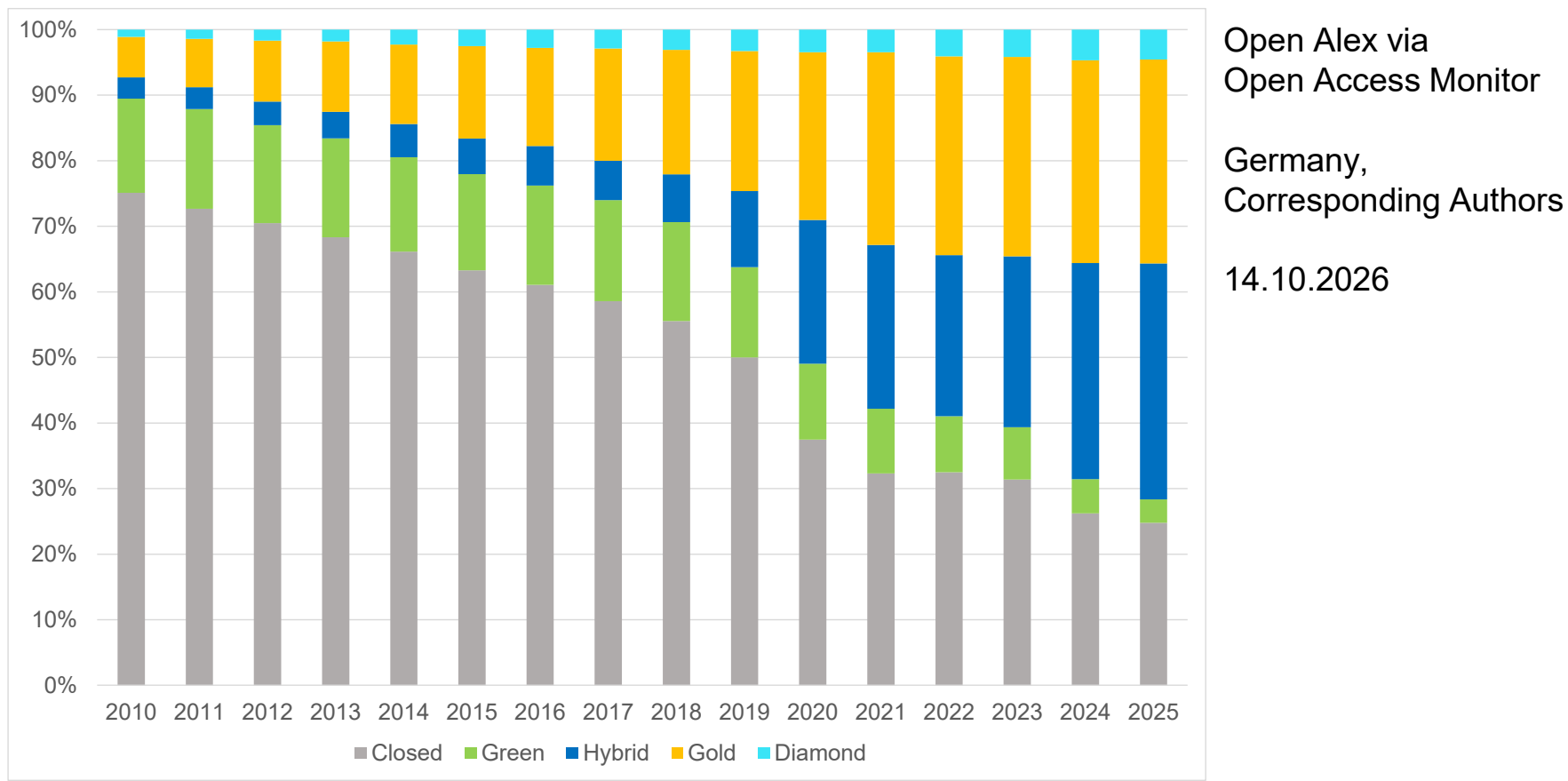
Topics

- The Big Picture
- Helmholtz Memorandum
- American Chemical Society

Publication Trends Germany: Absolute Share of OA Colors



Publication Trends Germany: Relative Share of OA Colors



Berlin Declaration (2003)

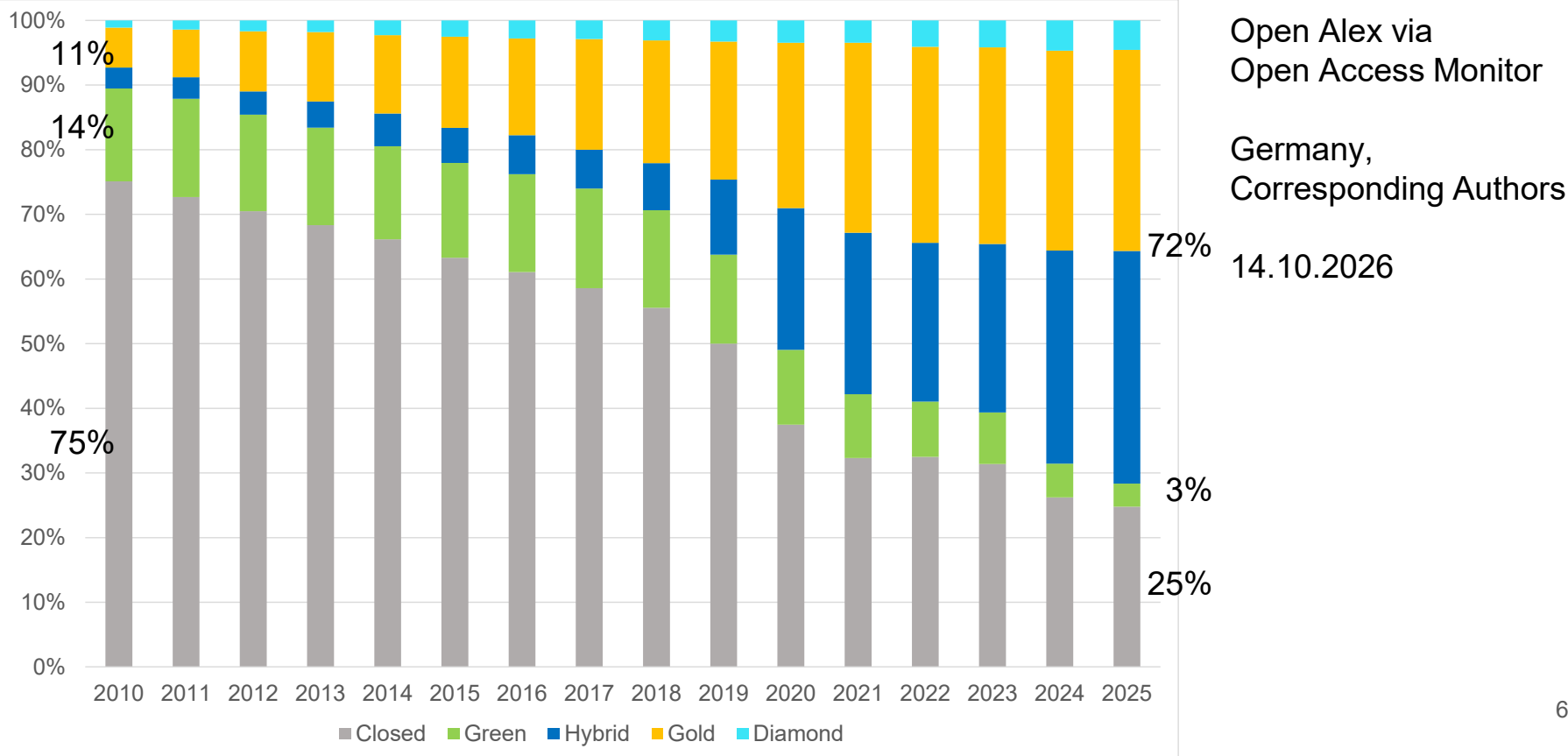
“Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made **widely and readily available to society**.”

<https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berliner-Erklaerung>

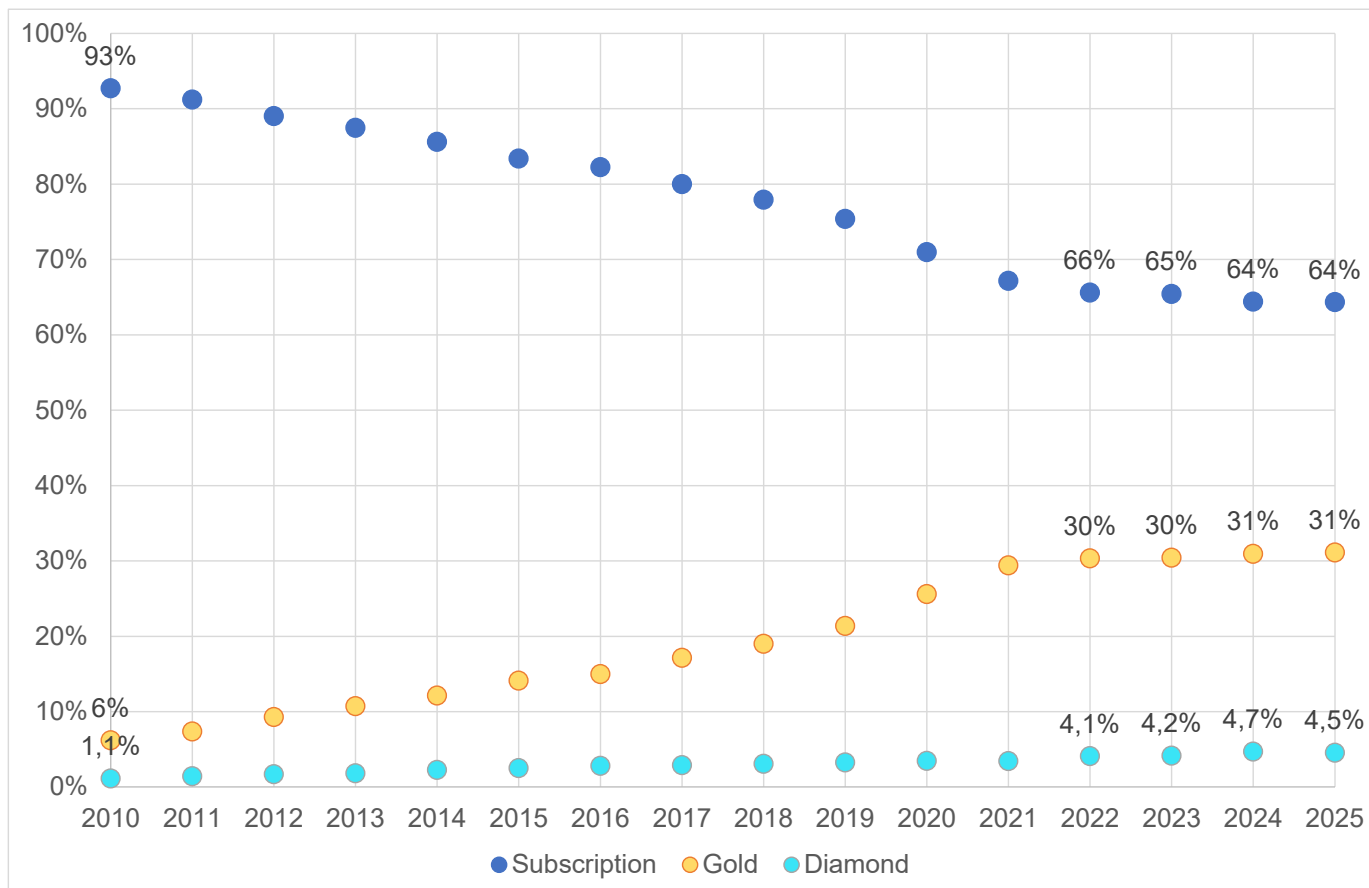
Signatories / Unterzeichner

No	Date	Organisation	Person
839	19.10.2026	Universidad Libre, Colombia	María Elizabeth García González
838	19.10.2026	Revista de Direito, Trabalho, Sociedade e Cidadania	Miguel Ivân Mendonça Carneiro
837	06.10.2026	Institute for Employment Research (IAB) of the German Federal Employment Agency (BA)	Bernd Fitzenberger

Publication Trends Germany: Relative Share of OA Colors



Publication Trends Germany: Business Models



Open Alex via
Open Access Monitor

Germany,
Corresponding Authors

14.10.2026

12th Berlin Open Access Conference (2015): Eol

“We aim to **transform a majority of today’s scholarly journals from subscription to OA publishing** in accordance with community-specific publication preferences.”

<https://openaccess.mpg.de/2172617/Expression-of-Interest>

WR

WISSENSCHAFTSRAT



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



MAX PLANCK
GESELLSCHAFT



Leopoldina
Nationale Akademie
der Wissenschaften

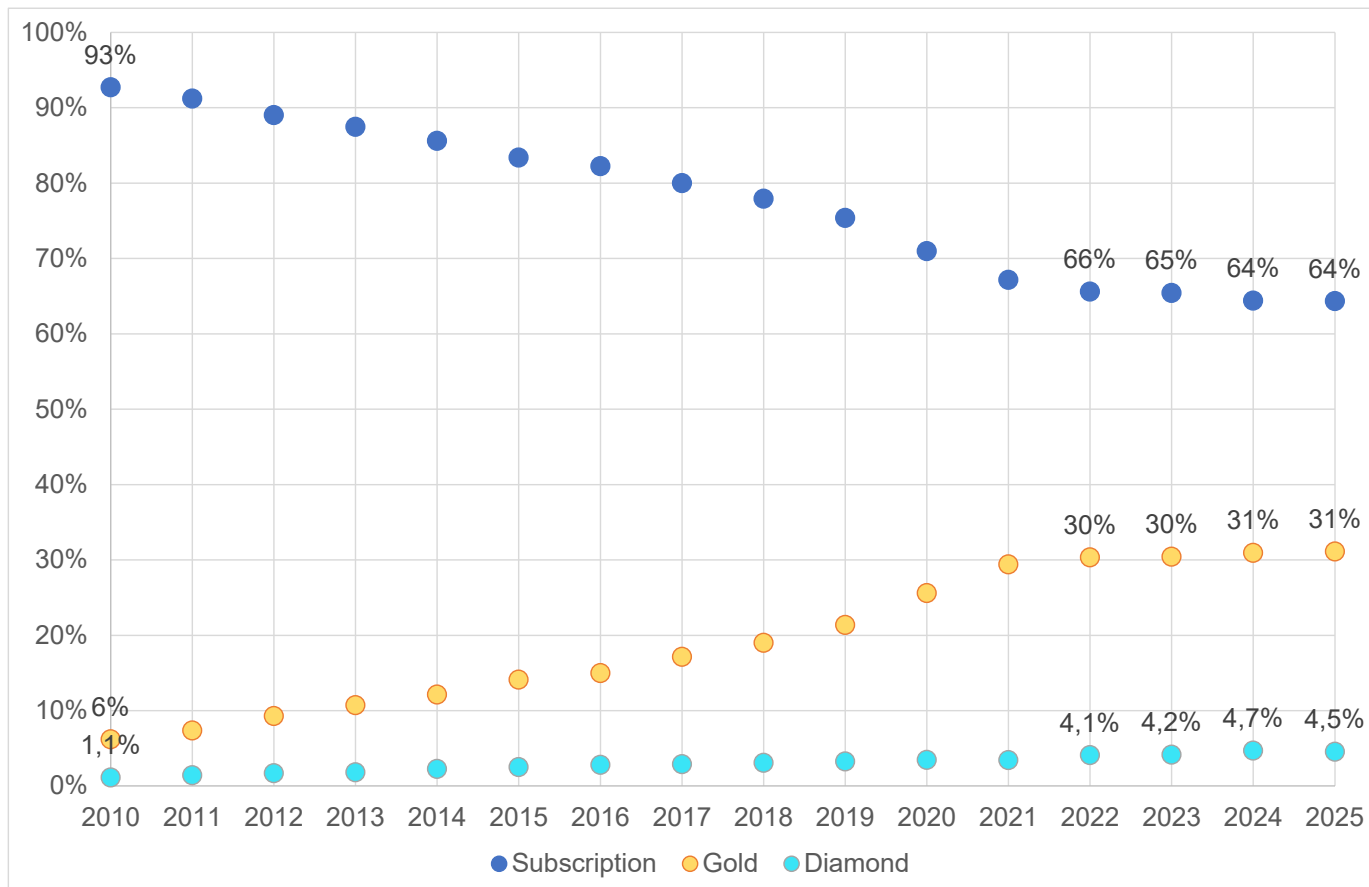
HELMHOLTZ

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz
Die Stimme der Hochschulen



Fraunhofer

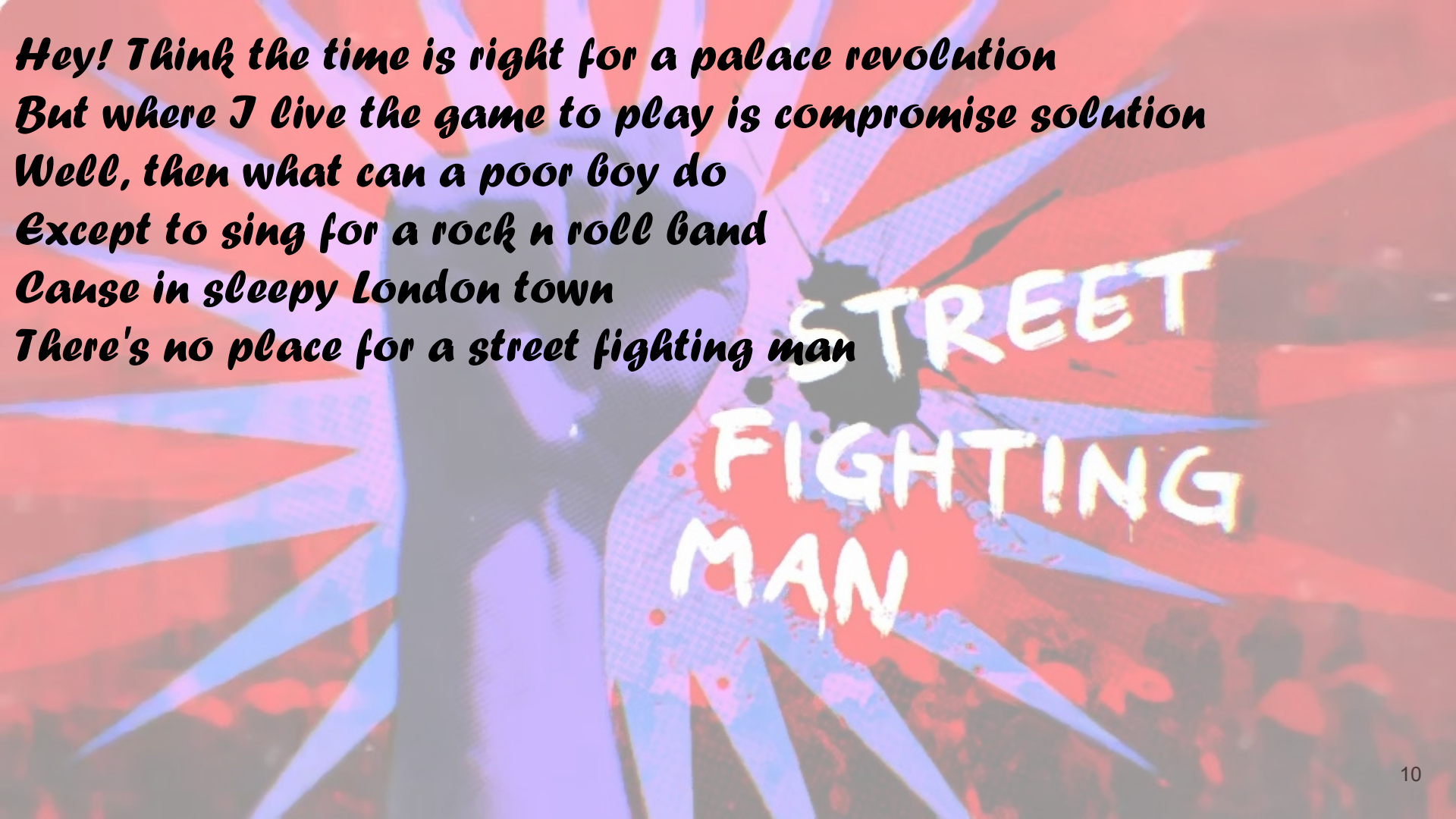
Publication Trends Germany: Business Models



Open Alex via
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14.10.2026



*Hey! Think the time is right for a palace revolution
But where I live the game to play is compromise solution
Well, then what can a poor boy do
Except to sing for a rock n roll band
Cause in sleepy London town
There's no place for a street fighting man*

**STREET
FIGHTING
MAN**

Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation at the Helmholtz Association

Position Paper of the Working Groups “Open Science” and “Library and Information Management”

The Assembly of Members took note of the Memorandum in 2026 and approved it.

As of September 2024
Version 2.0

German: <https://doi.org/10.48440/os.helmholtz.078>
English: <https://doi.org/10.48440/os.helmholtz.079>

Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation

1. Evaluation of the Concept of Transformative Agreements on the Basis of the DEAL Agreements

The assessment of the extent to which the current concept of transformative agreements has sustainably promoted a transition to open access by default in scholarly publishing and what adjustments to the negotiation objectives may be necessary in the future requires a structured basis through an evaluation.

From Helmholtz's perspective, it is now necessary—and in view of the term of the DEAL agreements also timely—to launch this evaluation process within the framework of the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany so that in 2026 common assessments can form the basis for the new negotiations, which will then be upcoming.

In view of the current broad data base, the focus on the term of the DEAL agreements will enable an in-depth analysis.

A structured evaluation by the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany of the concept of transformative agreements on the basis of the DEAL Agreements will enable joint assessments for future negotiations by 2026.

Alliance's Strategy for the
Further Development of
Academic Publishing
2026-2030
[10.5281/zenodo.15853294](https://zenodo.org/record/15853294)

Task Force
DEAL Evaluation

Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation

9. Strengthening the Diversity of the Publishing Landscape and in Particular Scholar-Led Publishing Infrastructures

The market dominance of major scholarly publishers and the growing presence of their tools in the research process are increasingly jeopardizing the sovereignty of research.¹⁵ The failure to flip journals to full open access and the pooling of financial resources to enable participation in transformative agreements like DEAL lead to a loss of biodiversity and are ultimately not conducive to open access transformation, as they further manifest the status quo. National and international developments and activities are therefore increasingly focusing on strengthening scholar-led publishing infrastructures and diamond open access.¹⁶

Helmholtz centers can reduce their dependence on major publishers and contribute to a sustainable open access publishing landscape. This can be achieved through collaborations in the area of not-for-profit publishing opportunities or by establishing scholar-led publishing infrastructures. Opening the centers' own infrastructures (e.g. Jülich Publishing House or KIT Publishing) to other Helmholtz centers or using existing external offerings (e.g. TIB Open Publishing) are conceivable approaches. In addition, new publishing platforms with scholar-led review structures should be considered (inter alia such as Open Research Europe¹⁷ or community-based evaluation structures,¹⁸ among others) and, where possible, supported through long-term institutional memberships or sponsoring. Financial leeway could be achieved here, for example, by re-allocating financial resources in the area of licensing.

The Helmholtz Centers should reduce their dependence on major publishers and promote a sustainable open access publishing landscape by supporting not-for-profit publishing opportunities, establishing scholar-led publishing infrastructures, and using existing offerings.

Diamond OA Publishing House of FZJ:

- 2 journals
- approx. 100 books per year
- application for BMFTR grant (pending)

Concept for a „Deutschland-Fonds
Diamond Open Access DeFDOA“
[10.34734/FZJ-2025-04667](https://doi.org/10.34734/FZJ-2025-04667)

Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation

2. Genuine Transformative Agreements

Back in 2016, the OA2020 Expression of Interest in the Large-Scale Implementation of Open Access to Scholarly Journals,³ which was supported by all science organizations in Germany, called for the switching of the entire scholarly publishing system to open access. However, the transformative agreements concluded to date both in Germany and worldwide have led only to a switch to open access at article level, and do not provide for the “flipping” of the journals. The expectation that a switch to open access at article level would almost inevitably lead to the journals being flipped has not been fulfilled either. On the contrary, there have even been “re-flips”— that is, the conversion of open access journals into subscription-based journals. The transformative-agreement path, which has been pursued for a decade now,⁴ does not appear to be expedient, and it requires at least an exit strategy. Internationally, the first signs of a move away from transformative agreements (BIBSAM),⁵ and even article processing charges (APCs; Gates Foundation),⁶ can be observed.

From the year 2026 onwards, the Helmholtz Association will conclude or become a party to transformative agreements only if they contain robust stipulations regarding flipping. From the year 2028 onwards, the Association will conclude or become a party to transformative agreements only if they provide for a complete flip at the end of the contract period, at the latest.

Flipping@ACS

9. → OPEN-ACCESS¶

Both parties converge on the transformative endeavor to contributing to the global transformation of scholarly publishing to open access. The overarching goal is to establish open access as the standard in scholarly publishing. This approach reflects the mutual commitment of the German federal government and federal states to establish open access within the German science system, as expressed in the Joint Guidelines of the Federal Government and the Lander on Open Access and the Recommendations on the Transformation of Scientific Publishing issued by the German Council of Science and Humanities, to advance the global shift towards open publishing models, promoting open access publishing as the standard for scholarly communication. ACS supports this goal and commits to flip any subscription journal (hybrid journal) to a Gold Open Access journal if a threshold of 50% Hybrid Open Access articles is reached in two consecutive calendar years ("trigger event"). Flipping will be pursued after not more than three years following the trigger event. For example, if threshold is met in 2025 and 2026, the journal has to flip not later than as of January 1, 2029. ¶

A Transformative Journal must clearly and publicly announce on the journal website its commitment to transition to full OA and agree to transition to full Open Access as soon as possible and **in any event no later than when 75% of its research content is published Open Access**. The publisher must also acknowledge that financial support from cOAlition S funders will end at the latest by 31 December 2024.

While ACS certainly supports the principles of Open Access, we will not agree to a policymaking statement in a licensing contract.



Plan S

Making full & immediate
Open Access a reality

Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation

4. Publish-And-Read (PAR) Fees and Article Processing Charges (APCs)

Open access transformative agreements mean a switch from a subscription-based monetization system to a system that is based essentially on the number of articles published.

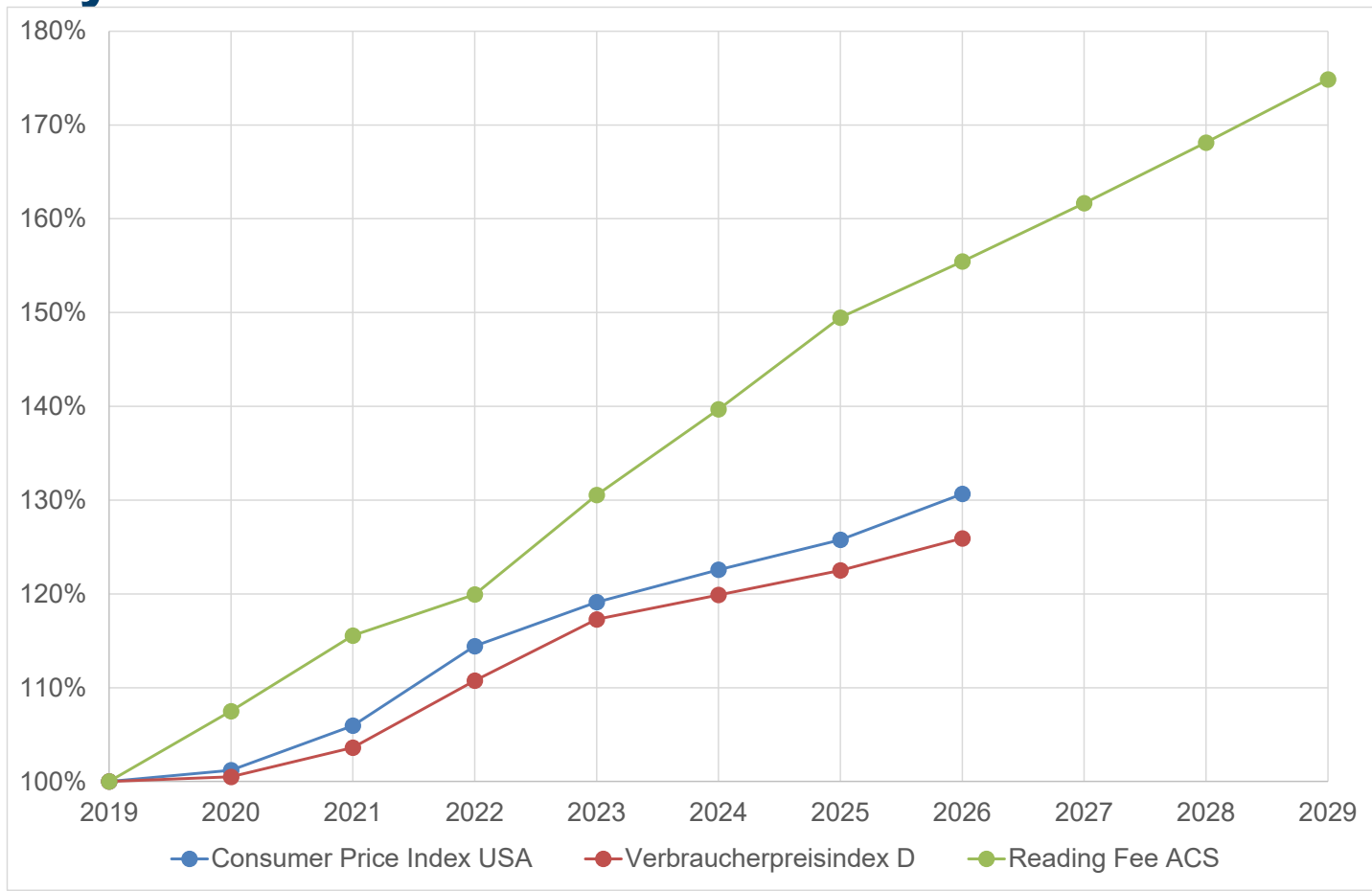
Within the framework of previous transformative agreements, historical subscription volumes serve as the basis for the calculation of APCs (or PAR fees in the case of hybrid open access). However, these charges were based on the sometimes huge annual price increase rates that were possible only in the context of the prevailing monopoly structures. Although the current transformative agreements (taken as a whole) have been able to slow down the rates of increase, additional costs arise each year because of contractually agreed rates of increase. This contradicts the originally agreed transformation framework, which provides for a restructuring of rather than a continuous increase in the (publication) budgets.

From the year 2026 onwards, the Helmholtz Association will conclude or become a party to transformative agreements only if the calculation of PAR fees is based solely on the expected number of articles by corresponding authors (extrapolated from an x-yearly tranche) and the total costs per article on which the calculation is based do not exceed 2,500 euros net.

ACS expectation:
> \$ 4.000

HGF cost per article:
2023: 3.843 €
2024: 4.112 €
2025: 4.400 €

Sky is the Limit



Memorandum on the Open Access Transformation

8. Strengthening the Legally Permitted Possibilities of Using Copyrighted Works for Text and Data Mining and Artificial Intelligence (Machine Learning)

Statutory permission to reproduce copyrighted works and substantial parts of protected databases and to use these reproductions for text and data mining and artificial intelligence—especially in the sub-area of machine learning for research purposes—is of key societal interest because these usage possibilities sustainably strengthen research and its ability to solve problems. Furthermore, without these possibilities, Europe would lose a lot of its competitiveness, and research activities that need these permissions would be relocated to other jurisdictions. Corresponding provisions in EU Directive 2019/790 on copyright and related rights¹³ and EU Regulation 2024/1689 on artificial intelligence¹⁴ are therefore emphatically welcomed.

Statutory permission to reproduce copyrighted works and substantial parts of protected databases for text and data mining and artificial intelligence for research purposes must be maintained.

Addendum Text and Data Mining

|| Clause 1 – Licensed uses: Text and Data Mining and Artificial Intelligence ||

¶
The Licensee and its Authorized Users may, subject to the restrictions in Clause 2, for the purpose of Licensee's or Authorized Users' own ~~non-commercial~~ academic research: ¶

¶
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BM

Bernhard Mittermaier

This is not how TDM works ¶

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American Chemical Society

Washington, DC • Tax exemption issued: May 1946 • EIN: 53-0196572

Subscribe

Receive an email when new data is available for this organization.

2024: Profit Margin 7,6%

Type of Nonprofit

Designated as a 501(c)(3)

Organizations for any of the following purposes: religious, educational, charitable, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering national or international amateur sports competition (as long as it doesn't provide athletic facilities or equipment), or the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

Category: Science and Technology Research Institutes, Services / Chemistry, Chemical Engineering (NTEE)

Donations to this organization are tax deductible.

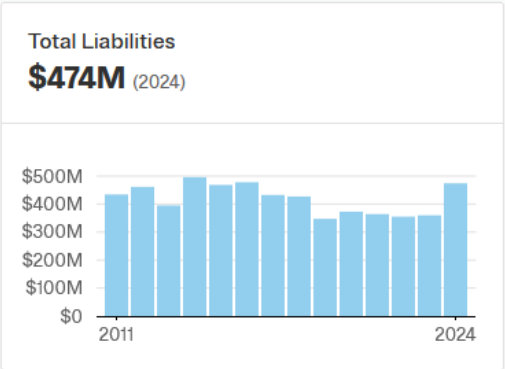
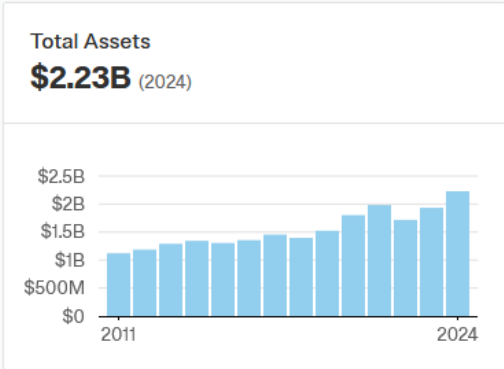
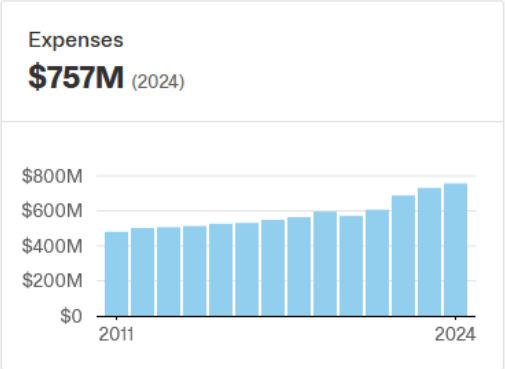
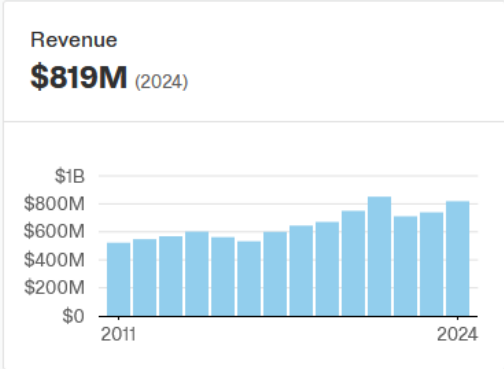
Details

According to its Dec. 2024 tax filing, this nonprofit:

Reported conflict of interest transactions

Organizations must report loans, grants or business transactions with interested parties, which may include key employees and officers, their family members and any businesses in which they hold a controlling interest. These transactions must be reported on Schedule L.

<https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/530196572>

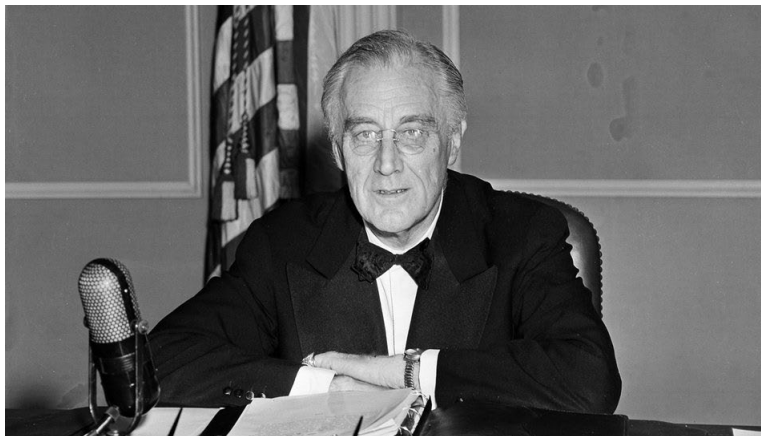


Source: Form 990 tax filings from 2011 to 2024

Officials at the University of Göttingen said in December that they are committed to holding firm; the university would work with researchers to obtain papers through an interlibrary loan and other online sources, they said. (Researchers also have an illegal option: downloading papers from Sci-Hub, a site hosting pirated papers that is becoming increasingly popular.) Waaijers says German institutes do need to demonstrate their resolve, even if it causes in-

but in return Elsevier made 10% of articles by Dutch authors open access in 2016; that

[/science.sciencemag.org/](https://science.sciencemag.org/) on January 6, 2017



„The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.“

12	Einzel: Zusammenf. für das Merkmal (b) und (c)	Wie häufig? (Verh. 1:80, 1:100, 1:200, 1:400)	Zahl der Fälle
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