

MISSION POSSIBLE

Nonprofit organizations measure success by progress on their missions. Articulating their commitment to achieve something for the greater good is a critical first step. Thereafter the mission serves as a foundation for future plans and decisions. This is the framework in which CHORUS and its members interact and advance their shared mission.

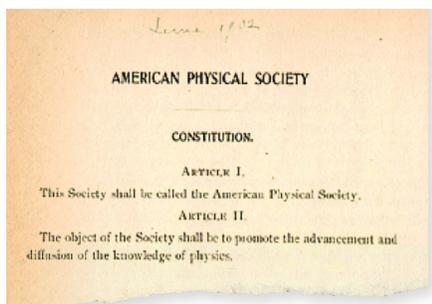
In the third of a series of CHORUS Success Stories, the American Physical Society (APS) discusses how their involvement with CHORUS has helped evolve their mission in the digital age to benefit their authors, the greater scholarly community, and open research.



ON A MISSION

In 1899, a group of physicists met and launched a new society *“to promote the advancement and diffusion of the knowledge of physics.”*

APS has been pursuing that mission ever since, publishing research journals, hosting scientific meetings, providing educational and diversity programs, and performing outreach and



advocacy for physicists in academia, national laboratories, and industry. In the early years, APS focused on scientific meetings, but within two decades the Society added journal publishing to its remit when it took over the operation of the *Physical Review*. To meet the needs of the community, APS has since introduced *Reviews of Modern Physics* and *Physical Review Letters*, 10 more journals, and one magazine to its publishing portfolio.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

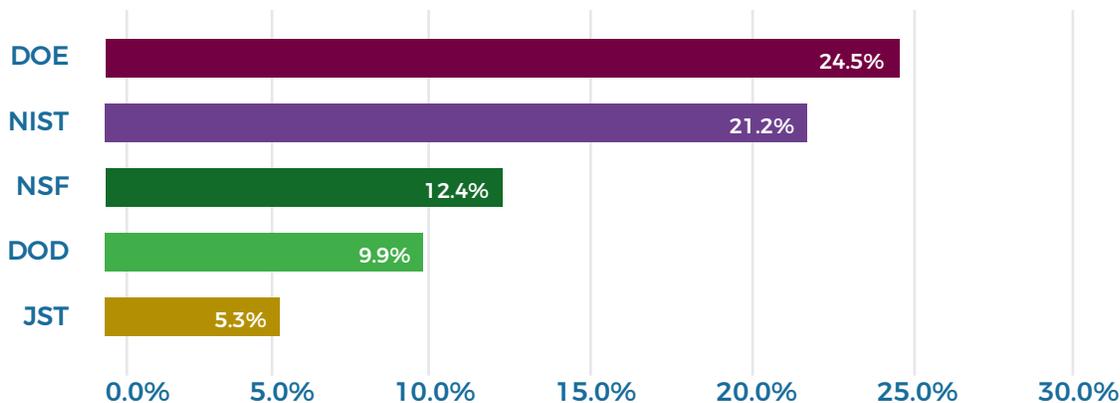
In recent years, APS’s commitment to service has extended its influence well beyond the boundaries of the physics community. One important focus is to spark interest in physics among young students and eliminate barriers that prevent them from pursuing the field. Stimulated by the increased public engagement of scientists, APS has also become more active in providing advice and information to officials, contributing to policy debates, and partaking in industry initiatives in the US and internationally.

APS took a leadership role in developing a community-wide collaboration in response to the White House Office of Science and Technology’s policy memorandum in 2013 that called for open access to the results of federally funded research. **Former APS Treasurer/Publisher Joseph Serene** was the CHORUS founding Treasurer and a force in establishing its economic sustainability.

The APS continues to contribute its resources (both human and financial) to help shape the scholarly community’s compliance with evolving open research requirements. According to **APS Publisher Matthew Salter**, “Collaboration through CHORUS has produced a practical and sustainable solution to make publicly funded research outputs more accessible, easily and permanently discoverable, accessible, and verifiable by anyone in the world.” Salter adds, “There’s an important process that goes on between discovery in a laboratory or in an academic setting and communicating that research to other researchers and the public. **CHORUS coalesces best practices, streamlines workflows, and aligns the interests of researchers, publishers, government agencies, research officers, and librarians.**”

APS Chief Information Officer Mark Doyle, who has served as the Co-Chair of the CHORUS Technology Working Group (TWG) since 2015, notes that CHORUS employs widely used metadata and standards that many organizations involved in CHORUS have been collaborating on for many years. “The CHORUS TWG provides an opportunity for publishers, funders, service providers, and journal platform vendors to all work together to find pragmatic, effective paths to increase public access to peer-reviewed research.”

PERCENTAGE OF AGENCY FUNDED RESEARCH OUTPUT MONITORED BY CHORUS PUBLISHED BY APS



By tracking metadata on the articles APS publishes, CHORUS provides easy-to-use dashboards and downloadable reports with verified data that helps ensure the quality of the metadata and help authors and their institutions comply with funders' requirements. Doyle explains that the CHORUS Dashboards enable APS to track the public accessibility and availability of reuse terms, preservation arrangements, datasets, ORCID IDs, and agency portal URLs for the 43,000+ APS articles that are monitored and audited by CHORUS. He notes that about 70% of the monitored articles are already publicly accessible – the number of articles that are publicly available is growing daily. The APS team makes use of the data reports as a check on its systems, “We don’t find a lot of errors, but as a result of our CHORUS participation, we have the capability to regularly check our data and clean it up” he says.

The Funder Dashboards that CHORUS produces (and makes freely available) provided an important insight for APS. Doyle explained, “While we have long known that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and National Science Foundation (NSF) fund a significant portion of the research *Physical Review* publishes, the **CHORUS dashboards clearly show that a surprisingly large fraction of DOE and NSF funded research appears in APS journals. It is a great visualization of importance of our journals to the U.S. research enterprise despite our relatively small size.**”

OPENING DOORS

DOE was the first funding agency to participate in CHORUS. The relationship remains the productive public/private collaboration that began during the Pilot and was formalized with an agreement in April 2015. Today CHORUS has such partnerships with 10 funding agencies. APS’s relationships have opened doors for CHORUS and vice versa. Working closely with DOE from the early CHORUS days on has deepened APS’s ties with DOE and other funders.

Salter recalls when CHORUS was reaching beyond the US and into Japan, he was able to help navigate in new territory. Prior to joining APS and the CHORUS Board, he lived in Tokyo for many years where he held a number of academic and publishing positions. His knowledge of the language and culture proved indispensable when he and CHORUS’s APAC Business Development Director Mark Robertson visited CHIBA University and the funder JST. Together, they managed to communicate CHORUS’s global potential successfully -- both institutions signed on.

“I am pleased that I had a role in helping CHORUS gain a foothold outside the U.S. Forging new relationships advances our mutual understanding and furthers our shared mission. Looking ahead in 2019, I am excited by the prospect of developing more active and formal engagement with academic institutions,” Salter observes.

For more information about the benefits of becoming a CHORUS Publisher member, please e-mail us at info@chorusaccess.org or follow us on Twitter [@CHORUSaccess](https://twitter.com/CHORUSaccess)

