

Public Library of Science

Financial Statements
and Supplementary Information

December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Public Library of Science
San Francisco, California

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Public Library of Science (a California nonprofit corporation) (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Public Library of Science as of December 31, 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Public Library of Science and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Public Library of Science's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Public Library of Science's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Public Library of Science's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited Public Library of Science (a California nonprofit corporation)'s 2020 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated June 22, 2021. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.



Armanino^{LLP}
San Francisco, California

June 27, 2022

Public Library of Science
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 1,818,982	\$ 2,724,775
Program and accounts receivable, net	5,894,599	4,153,521
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	852,456	1,138,285
Total current assets	8,566,037	8,016,581
Noncurrent assets		
Investments	15,223,366	13,704,267
Restricted investment	175,976	175,976
Property and equipment, net	556,665	93,302
Loan receivable	-	64,140
Deposits	8,402	8,402
Total noncurrent assets	15,964,409	14,046,087
Total assets	\$ 24,530,446	\$ 22,062,668
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Institutional deposits	\$ 1,008,017	\$ 1,423,360
Accrued liabilities	1,372,993	1,367,069
Accounts payable	1,392,150	1,320,240
Note payable - PPP loan	-	2,567,157
Deferred revenue	535,944	340,956
Total current liabilities	4,309,104	7,018,782
Deferred rent liability	189,141	210,526
Total liabilities	4,498,245	7,229,308
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	20,032,201	14,792,206
With donor restrictions	-	41,154
Total net assets	20,032,201	14,833,360
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 24,530,446	\$ 22,062,668

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Public Library of Science
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
Revenues, gains and other support				
Publication fees	\$ 35,694,204	\$ -	\$ 35,694,204	\$ 34,310,825
Less: support provided to authors	<u>(3,291,860)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,291,860)</u>	<u>(1,882,204)</u>
Publication fees, net	32,402,344	-	32,402,344	32,428,621
Institutional Partnership revenue	1,717,083	-	1,717,083	45,000
Advertising	277,534	-	277,534	261,704
Forgiveness of PPP loan	2,567,157	-	2,567,157	-
Grants and contributions	713	6,503	7,216	60,366
Interest and dividend income	612,076	-	612,076	413,937
Unrealized and realized gains on investments, net	107,618	-	107,618	1,031,939
Reprints	2,959	-	2,959	11,909
Other income (expense), net	(2,900)	-	(2,900)	(145,256)
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>47,657</u>	<u>(47,657)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues, gains and other support	<u>37,732,241</u>	<u>(41,154)</u>	<u>37,691,087</u>	<u>34,108,220</u>
Functional expenses				
Publishing program services	27,640,485	-	27,640,485	27,773,602
Management and general	<u>4,851,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,851,761</u>	<u>3,301,627</u>
Total functional expenses	<u>32,492,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>32,492,246</u>	<u>31,075,229</u>
Change in net assets	5,239,995	(41,154)	5,198,841	3,032,991
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>14,792,206</u>	<u>41,154</u>	<u>14,833,360</u>	<u>11,800,369</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 20,032,201</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 20,032,201</u>	<u>\$ 14,833,360</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Public Library of Science
Statement of Functional Expenses
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	Publishing Program Services	Management and General	2021 Total	2020 Total
Expenses				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 17,029,761	\$ 2,839,155	\$ 19,868,916	\$ 18,774,597
Production costs	5,525,683	-	5,525,683	6,007,825
Facility costs	1,320,997	98,996	1,419,993	1,739,006
Technology	1,408,991	167,281	1,576,272	1,334,550
Office and other	460,736	817,801	1,278,537	751,383
Marketing and advertising	1,163,013	-	1,163,013	691,445
Professional fees	613,971	476,293	1,090,264	1,358,401
Training and recruitment	30,265	411,540	441,805	251,092
Travel, meals, and promotion	87,068	40,695	127,763	166,930
	<u>\$ 27,640,485</u>	<u>\$ 4,851,761</u>	<u>\$ 32,492,246</u>	<u>\$ 31,075,229</u>
Total expenses				

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Public Library of Science
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 5,198,841	\$ 3,032,991
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	150,524	274,985
Unrealized and realized investment gains, net	(107,618)	(1,031,939)
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	1,524	146,574
Deferred rent liability	(21,385)	(16,877)
Forgiveness of Paycheck Protection Program loan	(2,567,157)	-
Accrued interest	-	(1,733)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Program and accounts receivable, net	(1,741,078)	(2,489,157)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	285,829	(396,815)
Accounts payable	71,910	104,931
Accrued liabilities	5,925	277,755
Institutional deposits	(415,343)	514,497
Deferred revenue	<u>194,988</u>	<u>(69,312)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,056,960</u>	<u>345,900</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from loan receivable	64,140	-
Purchase of investments	(5,059,583)	(2,209,034)
Sale of investments	3,648,102	1,297,573
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	200	500
Purchase of restricted investment	-	(30,000)
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>(615,612)</u>	<u>(12,663)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(1,962,753)</u>	<u>(953,624)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from Paycheck Protection Program loan	<u>-</u>	<u>2,567,157</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>2,567,157</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	(905,793)	1,959,433
Cash, beginning of year	<u>2,724,775</u>	<u>765,342</u>
Cash, end of year	<u>\$ 1,818,982</u>	<u>\$ 2,724,775</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

The Public Library of Science ("Organization" or "PLOS") was incorporated in the State of California, USA on July 11, 2001, as a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with company number C2354500, and is registered in the UK with company number FC031758 and branch number BR016828 with headquarters located in San Francisco. Our mission is to accelerate progress in science and medicine by leading a transformation in research communication. We publish a suite of Open Access journals, empowering researchers to make all content freely available online for everyone to learn from, share and reuse without restrictions. We also work alongside research communities to break down barriers in making research communication more accessible, more equitable, and more transparent.

In August 2021, we established our German subsidiary, PLOS GmbH, in Berlin. This was an important step in fulfilling our goal to expand global footprint in locally responsible ways to get closer to our communities. In order for us to have a meaningful impact we need our publications to include the broadest range of voices, globally. This way, we ensure the co-creation of paths to Open Science that work for diverse communities and do not simply extend legacy power structures. The purpose of PLOS GmbH is to ensure the representation of the interests and values of European research communities in PLOS publications and to co-create pathways to an equitable Open Science future.

The Organization's core objectives are to:

- Work with research communities globally to overcome unnecessary barriers, influence research-sharing practices, and co-create solutions that maximize the immediate availability, access, and use of research.
- Pursue a publishing strategy that optimizes the inclusivity, openness, quality, and integrity of the publication process, facilitating trust and collaboration around scientific evidence that advances progress and enables our society to address global challenges.
- Develop innovative approaches to the assessment, organization, and reuse of ideas and data.

For more information, visit PLOS' website at www.plos.org.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting and financial statement presentation

The financial statements of PLOS have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP") specific to nonprofit organizations. Net assets and changes therein are classified as follows:

- *Net assets without donor restrictions* - These funds represent the portion of net assets that are not restricted by donor-imposed stipulations. These net assets are intended for use by management and the Board of Directors for general operations.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Basis of accounting and financial statement presentation (continued)

- *Net assets with donor restrictions* - These funds represent the portion of net assets for which use is limited by donor-imposed stipulations. This include donor-imposed stipulations that either expire by passage of time and/or can be fulfilled and removed by actions of PLOS or donor-imposed stipulations that are restricted in perpetuity. PLOS does not have any net assets held in perpetuity.

Revenues are reported as increases in net assets without donor restrictions unless use of the related asset is limited by donor-imposed restrictions. PLOS recognizes support from net assets with restrictions when the restrictions imposed by the donors have been satisfied or expired. Expenses are reported as decreases in net assets without donor restrictions.

Gains and losses on assets and liabilities are reported as increases or decreases in net assets without donor restrictions unless their use is restricted by explicit donor restriction or by law. Expirations of restrictions on net assets (i.e., the donor-stipulated purpose has been fulfilled and/or the stipulated time period has elapsed) are reported as reclassifications between the applicable classes of net assets. Revenues with donor restriction that meet the donor-imposed stipulation during the same fiscal period are recorded as revenue with donor restriction and are released from restriction in the corresponding fiscal period.

Prior year summarized information

The financial statements include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total, but not by net asset class. Such summarized information does not include sufficient detail to constitute a presentation in conformity with U.S. GAAP. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with PLOS' financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2020 from which the summarized information was derived.

Cash

PLOS considers all highly liquid investments which include domestic and foreign country deposits with remaining maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. PLOS maintains its cash balances in high quality financial institutions, which at times may exceed federally insured limits. PLOS has not experienced any losses in such accounts. PLOS attempts to limit its credit risk associated with cash equivalents and marketable securities by utilizing outside advisors and managers to place its investments with highly rated corporate and financial institutions.

Investments

PLOS' investments are stated at fair value based on quoted prices in active markets. Any related changes in realized or unrealized gain (loss) are reflected in the statement of activities.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Restricted investment

PLOS maintains one certificate of deposit with an original maturity in excess of three months with a bank that is pledged as security for its office lease. At December 31, 2021, the restricted investment amounted to \$175,976.

Contributions receivable

Contributions receivable represent unconditional promises from donors. There are no unconditional or conditional contributions receivable at December 31, 2021.

Program and accounts receivable

Program and accounts receivable consist of author fees, sponsorship, and advertising. Reserves for potential bad debts are maintained based on historical credit losses and management's expectations. The allowance for bad debts was \$421,150 as of December 31, 2021.

Long-lived assets

Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Recoverability of assets is measured by comparison of the carrying amount of the asset to the net undiscounted future cash flows expected to be generated from the asset. If the future undiscounted cash flows are not sufficient to recover the carrying value of the assets, the assets' carrying value is adjusted to fair value. There was no impairment of assets during the year ended December 31, 2021.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are valued at cost or, if donated, at fair market value on the date of donation. The cost of property and equipment greater than \$1,000 is capitalized and depreciated over the estimated useful life of each class of depreciable asset using the straight-line method or over the lesser of the lease term or useful life for leasehold improvements.

Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment is computed using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Leasehold improvements	Lesser of lease term or 1 to 5 years
Computer hardware and software	3 - 5 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 - 10 years
Website	5 years

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fair value measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., the "exit price") in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, PLOS uses various valuation approaches. A hierarchy has been established for inputs used in measuring fair value that maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs by requiring that the most observable inputs be used when available. Observable inputs are inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the PLOS. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect PLOS' assumptions about what market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value of financial instruments:

- *Level 1* - investments include quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical investments that PLOS has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- *Level 2* - investments include other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar instruments, interest rates, prepayment terms, credit risk, etc.).
- *Level 3* - investments include significant unobservable inputs (including PLOS' own assumptions in determining the fair value of instruments).

The categorization within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Institutional deposits

Institutional deposits represent unused prepaid publication fee deposits from institutional accounts. These are refundable amounts should the institution terminate its arrangements with PLOS.

Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue consists of publication fees collected in advance of publication.

Deferred rent

PLOS leases building space in San Francisco, California and Cambridge, U.K. under operating leases. The leases contain rental increases at various points throughout the lease terms. PLOS recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the lease terms. Deferred rent is provided to reflect the differences between rent recorded in the financial statements and actual rent paid according to the lease terms.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Revenue

PLOS recognizes revenues from contracts with customers using a five-step analysis of contracts to determine when and how revenue is to be recognized, based on the core principle that revenue is recognized to reflect the transfer of goods and services to customers in an amount equal to the consideration that PLOS receives or expects to receive.

PLOS receives revenue from a variety of sources. The most significant portion of revenues is derived from publication fees, which represents fees that authors pay in order to have their scientific articles published in one of PLOS' various online journals. PLOS receives article submissions from authors and then performs a detailed peer review prior to publishing the article. Publication fee revenue is recognized at the time of publication. The publication fee amount is based on pre-established rates.

Publication fee support includes amounts extended to individual authors with financial hardships through the Publication Fee Assistance program and authors whose research is funded by eligible low- and middle-income countries through the PLOS Global Participation Initiative.

Institutional Partnership revenue consist of flat price agreements entered into with institutions that enable authors affiliated with the institutions to publish articles with PLOS for no fee. The institutions pay a flat annual fee which is recognized over the term of the subscription period as the performance obligation is delivered.

Advertising revenue is recognized when the advertising is published.

Contributions

Contributions, including unconditional promises to give, are recognized as revenues in the period the promise is received at fair value. Conditional promises to give are not recognized until they become unconditional; that is when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met. Donor-restricted contributions where restrictions are met in the same reporting period in which they are contributed are reported as support without donor restrictions.

Donated property is recorded at the estimated fair value at the date of receipt. PLOS reports gifts of property as support without restrictions unless explicit donor stipulations specify how the donated assets are to be used. Gifts of long-lived assets with explicit restrictions that specify how the assets are to be used and gifts of cash or other assets that must be used to acquire long-lived assets are reported as restricted support. Absent explicit donor stipulations about how long those long-lived assets must be maintained, PLOS reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired long-lived assets are placed in service.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Contributed services and costs

Contributed services and costs are reflected at the fair value of the contribution received. The contributions of services and costs are recognized if they (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills that are provided by individuals possessing those skills and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. PLOS did not recognize any in-kind contributions during the year ended December 31, 2021.

Functional allocation of expenses

Costs of providing PLOS' programs and other activities have been allocated between publishing program services and general and administration functional expenses based upon time and other cost studies performed by PLOS. Indirect costs were allocated to the programs and supporting services by a method that best measured the relative degree of benefit which was primarily based on headcount and individual's respective functions.

Income taxes

PLOS has received notification from the Internal Revenue Service and the State of California that it qualifies for tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 27301d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. The exemptions are subject to periodic review by the federal and state taxing authorities, and management is confident that PLOS continues to satisfy all federal and state statutes in order to qualify for continued tax exemption status. PLOS may periodically receive unrelated business income (such as advertising income, etc.) requiring PLOS to file separate tax returns under federal and state statutes. PLOS also has certain transactions requiring the payment of additional employer taxes to HM Revenue and Customs in the U.K. Under such conditions, PLOS calculates and accrues the applicable taxes. PLOS is not subject to examination by taxing authorities, nor was for any prior years.

PLOS assesses tax positions taken or expected to be taken against more-likely-than-not recognition threshold and measurement attributes for financial statement recognition. Based on an analysis prepared by PLOS, it was determined that PLOS believes that it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken, and as such, does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements.

Subsequent events

Management of PLOS has evaluated events and transactions subsequent to December 31, 2021, for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. There are no subsequent events that require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021. Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 27, 2022, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

3. INVESTMENTS

Investments consisted of the following:

	Cost	Fair Value
Fixed income	\$ 6,070,152	\$ 6,087,099
International stock	4,988,746	5,549,355
Domestic stock	2,695,548	3,586,912
	\$ 13,754,446	\$ 15,223,366

Unrealized and realized gains, net of fees, on investments for the year are as follows:

Net realized gain on sale of investments	\$ 554,854
Net unrealized loss on investments	(426,315)
Investment fees	(20,921)
	\$ 107,618

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The Organization's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2021 within the fair value hierarchy, are as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Fixed income	\$ 6,087,099	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,087,099
International stocks	5,549,355	-	-	5,549,355
Domestic stocks	3,586,912	-	-	3,586,912
	\$ 15,223,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,223,366

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

Computer hardware and software	\$ 1,997,866
Leasehold improvements	615,885
Website	947,818
Furniture and fixtures	471,721
	4,033,290
Accumulated depreciation	(3,476,625)
	\$ 556,665

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

5. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Depreciation and amortization expense for the year ended December 31, 2021 amounted to \$150,524 and is included in facility costs in the statement of functional expenses.

6. PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN

On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, commonly referred to as the CARES ACT, was signed into law. One of the component of the CARES Act was the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") which provides small business with the resources needed to maintain their payroll and cover applicable overhead such as office space lease expenditures. The PPP is implemented by the Small Business Administration ("SBA") with the support from the Department of the Treasury. On April 16, 2020, PLOS received a PPP loan for \$2,567,157. The loan accrues interest at a rate of 1% and has an original maturity date of two years which can be extended to five years by mutual agreement between PLOS and the lender. Payments of the principal and interest are deferred for the first ten month of the loan. Under the terms of the CARES Act, PPP loan recipients can apply for and be granted forgiveness for all or a portion of the loan granted under the PPP. Such forgiveness will be determined based on the use of the loan proceeds for payroll costs, covered mortgage interest payments, covered rent payments and covered utilities with certain limitations. PLOS has elected to account for the PPP loan as debt and accounts for the PPP loan as a liability until debt forgiveness is formally approved by the SBA either in full or in part.

In July 2021, PLOS was notified by Wells Fargo and the SBA that PLOS had been approved for full forgiveness of the PPP loan. The forgiveness amount of \$2,567,157 is recognized as forgiveness of PPP loan in the accompanying statement of activities.

7. NET ASSETS FROM DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Net assets with donor restrictions released from restriction during the year were as follows:

To study how credibility and impact of research artifacts influence scholarly research activities	\$ 41,154
To incentivize best practice in research data sharing: Can we increase use perception of value data repositories with new solutions integrated in publishing process	6,503
	\$ 47,657

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
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8. LEASE COMMITMENTS

In November 2016, PLOS entered into an operating lease that began June 1, 2017 and was to expire on May 31, 2024 for a rentable area of 20,502 square feet. In March 2020, PLOS amended its lease with the same landlord for a rentable area of 9,508 square feet effective September 1, 2020. The amendment reduced the current monthly lease payment from \$112,385 through May 2020 and \$115,750 through August 2020 to \$69,725 starting on September 1, 2020 with stipulated periodic rental increases. PLOS accounts for operating leases which have stipulated rental adjustments under the straight-line method. PLOS is responsible for its proportionate share of building, maintenance and operating expenses which includes property taxes, insurance, and utilities. In connection with the leases, PLOS is required to collateralize the rental agreements with a deposit for performance under the rental contracts. The required deposit amounted to \$175,976 at December 31, 2021 and is reflected as restricted investment on the statement of financial position.

In prior years, PLOS entered into operating lease agreements for office space in the United Kingdom. The agreements require PLOS to be responsible for repairs and maintenance to keep the premises in "good repair and condition" and is also subject to value added tax (VAT) on the periodic rent charges. The combined leases, exclusive of VAT, require periodic rental payments which equate to £116,578 British Pounds Sterling annually (approximately U.S. \$157,351 as of December 31, 2021). In October 2021, PLOS vacated the lease and the lease ended in April 2022.

The scheduled minimum lease payments under the lease terms are as follows:

<u>Year ending December 31,</u>	
2022	\$ 863,960
2023	889,878
2024	<u>916,575</u>
	<u>\$ 2,670,413</u>

Rent expense for the year ended December 31, 2021 amounted to \$1,138,032 and is included in facility costs in the statement of functional expenses.

9. RETIREMENT PLAN

For U.S. based employees, PLOS offers the opportunity for participation in a salary reduction retirement plan qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 401(k). The Public Library of Science 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan & Trust provides employees with the opportunity to defer up to 4% of their salary. PLOS matches 100% of employee contributions up to 3% of compensation, and then matches 50% of employee contributions on the next 2% of compensation. PLOS contributed \$402,023 to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2021.

For U.K.-based employees, PLOS offers a policy under Royal London whereby participants must contribute a minimum of 3% of their salary for a matching PLOS contribution up to 5%. PLOS contributed \$176,225 to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Public Library of Science
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2021

10. LIQUIDITY AND FUNDS AVAILABLE

As part of the Organization's liquidity management, PLOS invests its excess cash and operating reserves in its investment portfolio managed by Vanguard Institutional Advisors. PLOS' investment portfolio contains equity and fixed income mutual funds that can be redeemed on one day's notice.

PLOS strives to maintain net assets without restrictions that are equal to at least three months of its average monthly expenses, although the organization may choose to go below this level to invest in new initiatives.

Financial assets available within one year of the balance sheet date for general operating expenditures are as follows:

Financial assets	
Cash	\$ 1,818,982
Program and accounts receivable, net	5,894,599
Investments	<u>15,223,366</u>
	<u>\$ 22,936,947</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

To the Board of Directors
Public Library of Science
San Francisco, California

We have audited the financial statements of Public Library of Science (a California nonprofit corporation) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 and our report thereon dated June 27, 2022, which expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements, appears on pages 1 - 2. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The information on pages 19 - 20 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Armanino LLP

Armanino^{LLP}
San Francisco, California

June 27, 2022



An independent firm
associated with Moore
Global Network Limited

Public Library of Science
Statement of Activities with Publication Fee Support Presented as Program Expense
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	2021 Total	2020 Total
Revenues, gains and other support				
Publication fees	\$ 35,694,204	\$ -	\$ 35,694,204	\$ 34,310,825
Grants and contributions	2,567,870	6,503	2,574,373	60,366
Institutional Partnership revenue	1,717,083	-	1,717,083	45,000
Interest and dividend income	612,076	-	612,076	413,937
Advertising	277,534	-	277,534	261,704
Unrealized and realized gains on investments, net	107,618	-	107,618	1,031,939
Reprints	2,959	-	2,959	11,909
Other income (expense), net	(2,900)	-	(2,900)	(145,256)
Net assets released from restrictions	47,657	(47,657)	-	-
	<u>41,024,101</u>	<u>(41,154)</u>	<u>40,982,947</u>	<u>35,990,424</u>
Functional expenses				
Publishing program services	27,640,485	-	30,932,345	29,655,806
Management and general	4,851,761	-	4,851,761	3,301,627
Total functional expenses	<u>32,492,246</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,784,106</u>	<u>32,957,433</u>
Change in net assets	8,531,855	(41,154)	5,198,841	3,032,991
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>14,792,206</u>	<u>41,154</u>	<u>14,833,360</u>	<u>11,800,369</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 23,324,061</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 20,032,201</u>	<u>\$ 14,833,360</u>

Public Library of Science
Statement of Functional Expenses with Publication Fee Support Presented as Program Expense
For The Year Ended December 31, 2021
(With Comparative Totals for 2020)

	Publishing Program Services	Management and General	2021 Total	2020 Total
Expenses				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 17,029,761	\$ 2,839,155	\$ 19,868,916	\$ 18,774,597
Production costs	5,525,683	-	5,525,683	6,007,825
Publication fee support	3,291,860	-	3,291,860	1,882,204
Technology	1,408,991	167,281	1,576,272	1,334,550
Facility costs	1,320,997	98,996	1,419,993	1,739,006
Marketing and advertising	1,163,013	-	1,163,013	691,445
Professional fees	613,971	476,293	1,090,264	1,358,401
Office and other	460,736	817,801	1,278,537	751,383
Travel, meals, and promotion	87,068	40,695	127,763	166,930
Training and recruitment	30,265	411,540	441,805	251,092
	<u>30,265</u>	<u>411,540</u>	<u>441,805</u>	<u>251,092</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 30,932,345</u>	<u>\$ 4,851,761</u>	<u>\$ 35,784,106</u>	<u>\$ 32,957,433</u>