

One Year (Almost) with the Open Access Authors Fund

University of Ottawa
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What We're Going to Cover

- What is Open Access?
- What is the Open Access Authors Fund?
- Setting up the Open Access Authors Fund
- Criteria – for authors and for journals and more
- The Fund in action
- The future of the Fund
- Some issues
- Other OA activities at the University of Calgary

What is Open Access?

- Scholarly material that is freely accessible online, chiefly journal content
- No toll barriers (subscriptions, pay-per-view)
- Drivers behind Open Access:
 - Greater access to research information
 - Greater access to taxpayer-funded research
 - Greater (citation) impact
 - Increased author control
 - Journal subscription costs
- The two “roads/routes/arms” of Open Access:
 - “green” - Open Access repositories (OAR)
 - “gold” - Open Access publishing

What is the Open Access Authors Fund?

- The Open Access Authors Fund is designed to pay the fees charged by some publishers for articles to be published in Open Access journals by University of Calgary authors

Setting up the Fund

- BMC membership change (\$5,000 to \$50,000)
- Growth of other submission fees OA publishing programs (fully OA publishers, “hybrid” programs)
- Increasing knowledge and discussion of OA
- Unequal access among authors to money to pay submission fees
- June 2008 start, in conjunction with ALA and SPARC meetings
- \$100,000 CAN

Criteria – for Authors

- Who is eligible?
- Faculty, staff, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers
- No undergraduate students, no adjuncts (for now)

Criteria – for Journals

- Fully Open Access journals e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, some others
- “Hybrid” Open Access journals where subscription costs are lowered in response to the take-up of the OA program e.g. OUP, AIP (others?)

Other Criteria

- No limits to the number of submissions or costs
- Other fees (e.g. illustration, colour, page charges) are not covered
- Articles only (for now)
- Authors have to exhaust other funding before applying to the Fund
- Author options:
 - Put article in institutional repository
 - Use article in promotion of the Fund

The Fund in Action

- Operating since September 2008
- 45 official submissions
- Most authors from biomedical fields
- Publishers represented in submissions: BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, Dove, Bentham, IOP, Wiley-Blackwell, Cases
- 3 rejections, 1 withdrawal, 39 approved, rest are pending

The Fund in Action (cont.)

- About \$62,350 CAN in payments so far
- Average payment: \$1598 CAN
- Range of payments: \$200-\$3146 CAN
- Some prepayments and memberships e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi
- Reimbursed authors back to April 1, 2008
- 1st in Canada, 6th in the world

Some Issues

- Are we being too generous?
- Are we being taken advantage of?
- Are we paying more than if we just had individual subscriptions?
- The Fund vs. the economic situation

The Future of the Fund

- More advertising, promotion
- More presentations to and talks with U of C departments and faculties and elsewhere
- Advisory group
- Evaluation after first year

Other Open Access Activities at the University of Calgary

- Institutional Repository
 - 2nd/3rd largest in Canada
- University of Calgary Press
 - Some OA journals, looking at OA monographs
- Synergies
 - Principal partner
 - Prairie node
 - Coordination of preservation
- Libraries & Cultural Resources Open Access mandate

Resources

- Peter Suber's Open Access pages: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/>
- Budapest Open Access Initiative: <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>
- Bethesda Statement on Open Access: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>
- Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities: <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) Institutional Repositories Project: http://www.carl-abrc.ca/projects/institutional_repositories/canadian_projects-e.html – 30+ repositories, >80% of CARL libraries

Resources pt. 2

- arxiv: <http://arxiv.org/>
- RePec: <http://repec.org/>
- E-LIS: <http://eprints.rclis.org/>
- PubMed Central: www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov
- Open Access Authors Fund:
<http://library.ucalgary.ca/services/for-faculty/open-access-authors-fund-0>

Resources pt. 3

- Publishers with paid options for Open Access: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/PaidOA.html>
- University of Calgary Institutional Repository: <https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/>
- University of Calgary Press: <http://www.uofcpress.com/Journals.html>
- Synergies: <http://www.synergiescanada.org/>
- Synergies Prairie Node: <http://synergiesprairies.ca/>
- Libraries & Cultural Resources Open Access mandate: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/open-access/libraries-cultural-resources>

Questions? Discussion?



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