Authors’ perspectives on Open Access

Their journey towards Gold OA

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Authors

Destination: Open Access

Sea: journals
A closer look at the sea of journals

Journals
• ± 33,000 scholarly journals (English language)
• ± 42,000 scholarly journals (incl. other languages)
• Annual growth rate in journal titles 5-6%

Articles:
• ± 3 million journal articles per year published
• Annual growth rate journal articles ± 4-7%
A closer look at the sea of journals

**Type of scholarly journals (titles)**

- **Subscription-only journals**: 0.36
- **APC-free OA journals**: 0.16
- **Hybrid journals**: 0.32
- **APC-OA journals**: 0.16
A closer look at the sea of journals

Type of scholarly journals (articles)

Total articles now published on Gold OA:

± 20%

5 - 10% in APC-free OA journals
10 - 15% in APC-OA journals
10 - 20% in subscription-only journals

60-70% in hybrid journals
Authors

Sea: journals

Destination: Open Access

4 routes to take
Possible outcomes of the journal selection process:

1. APC-free OA journal
2. APC OA journal
3. OA in hybrid journal selected by author
4. OA in hybrid journal as a result of read & publish license
Factors in the journal selection process:

- *The* determining factor is match between article and journal (scope, reputation)
- OA plays generally only a secondary role in journal selection
External driving factors:
- Requirements by research funders etc.
- Strong OA publishing culture in research group
- Read & Publish licenses
- Match between article and Pure Gold journal

Intrinsic driving factors:
- More exposure of the article:
  - more downloads, more citations
  - if relevant for audiences outside academia
- Ideological arguments
- Complete freedom to reuse & redistribute
Inhibiting factors:
Resistance to paying APC’s from author discretionary budgets:
❑ ‘I prefer to spend that money on research’

Green OA is a cost-free (but lesser) alternative:
❑ As an author: ‘it is like a nice dish dumped on a plastic plate’
❑ For the reader: ‘you cannot find it on PubMed’
Obstacles & Irritants

- Daily emails from (predatory) OA journals
- Wide range in level of APC’s (increasing price sensitivity)
- Confusion by bewildering OA options: preprints, green OA, gold OA, offsetting deals, delayed OA.....
- Administrative burden re APC payments
3 groups of authors:
- OA supporters
- OA opportunists
- OA disinterested

4 routes to take:

OA supporters:
- Have important reasons to prefer publishing on Gold OA
- Will go extra mile if there is no (obvious) funding for APC

OA opportunists:
- If OA is mandatory and APC is compensated: Gold OA
- If not: no extra effort to publish on Gold OA

Disinterested in OA:
- ‘I am not interested at all in OA’
Two market types at the same time:

- Author’s market
- Institutional market

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4 routes to take
Two goals for services for authors:
• Empowering the authors
• Unburden the authors

3 groups of authors:
• OA supporters
• OA opportunists
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4 routes to take
### Strategic implications for author support services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author support library services</th>
<th>OA supporters</th>
<th>OA opportunists</th>
<th>Disinterested in OA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information services</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher deals</td>
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</table>

### 3 groups of authors:

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- OA opportunists
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### 4 routes to take

- Library services
- OA supporters
- OA opportunists
- OA disinterested
Paying for Open Access
The author’s perspective

Report dated June 2017

The Role of Hybrid Open Access in Extending Author Choice

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