

OA session 31/07/2012

Question: Does ADS contain OA journals?

Answer: Yes, ADS is not very critical regarding which journals they include.

Q: How would A&A page charges develop, if they go OA?

A: A&A already offers this possibility for EUR 200 per article. This option is not chosen by many people. It is not attractive because after three years the article is openly available anyway.

Elsevier e.g. charges \$3000.

An example from High Energy Physics is SCOAP3. Organisations like CERN, DESY, Los Alamos etc. build a consortium that facilitates Open Access publishing by re-directing subscription money, so that everybody can benefit.

Q: Is there a movement to provide money for page charges in Europe?

A: A&A: peer review is paid by the member states. Everything else is handled by the publisher. The A&A Board knows about the amount of income from subscriptions, but they don't know how much the publishing process actually costs.

MPG already pays page charges for publications in OA journals.

The European Commission announced that research funded by the EC must be made available via OA.

UK authors are obliged (based on the Finch report) to favour Gold OA. This resulted in protests because additional money would be needed as subscriptions also still need to be paid. Research council shall cover a percentage of the publishing costs.

Some big publishers like Elsevier make a lot of profit which was a reason for the start of OA, but saving money is only partially true as OA is not necessarily cheaper; costs are shifted. As recent reports (e.g. Finch report) favour Gold OA so much, Green OA could be more suppressed in the future.

arXiv has asked (depending on the usage) for financial support. Unfortunately text mining and preservation are still open issues. As there is no peer review, the reputation for authors is missing. There are ideas to add an additional layer to arXiv which offers the possibility to review articles.

Q: What is ESO's policy?

A: Before someone wants to publish an article for which page charges are required, they need to ask the Offices for Science, i.e. Eric or Michael. Note that there is presently little money for page charges, and that astronomers at ESO are by the way strongly encourage to publish in A&A (see the Science Wiki).

Q: What will Eric and Michael do, if they are asked for money to publish in an OA journal?

A: At the moment there is no money foreseen in the budget for OA. An article in a Hindawi journal would very probably be rejected (see above) as they are very expensive and as some people at ESO already had bad experiences. But there is a need for further discussions about funding and philosophy.