What’s the Big Deal? Preparing for Transformative Agreements

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Background

The Lamar Soutter Library is receiving an increasing number of offers to switch to Read and Publish Agreements when journal subscriptions are up for renewal. While increasing subscription costs and decreasing budget, how can Callahan Development Librarians, who have historically been the “Read” expert with subscriptions, and Scholars Communications Librarians, who have traditionally handled the “Publish” aspect with subscriptions, work together to inform decisions on these new types of agreements?

Knowledge areas essential to our collaboration on Read and Publish Agreements:

- Access to and understanding of resource usage statistics
- Understanding of contracts and negotiation processes
- Ability to pull together institutional publication information

Currently, the Lamar Soutter Library has Read and Publish Agreements with:

- Green, Gold, Hybrid
- Ability to pull together institutional publication information
- LSA
d

Informing our Criteria

To determine whether a Read & Publish agreement will be a good deal for the library, we will be considering the following:

- Total reading usage per vendor, with tracking of how much is available open access
- Article Processing Charges
- Total spend in previous 5 years on publishing costs
- Understanding our internal stakeholders needs/wants for publishing
- Knowledge areas essential to our collaboration on Read and Publish Agreements
- Cost of the subscription (APCs, page charges, etc.)

Next Steps

- RIS found that publishers are struggling to provide this data as much as libraries may be struggling to gather the data internally.
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- Funder information
- Understanding our internal stakeholders needs/wants for publishing
- Library has Read and Publish Agreements with:

Conclusions

- What have we learned?
- In strong agreement with the conclusions of SPARC.
- RIS found that publishers are struggling to provide this data as much as libraries may be struggling to gather the data internally.
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References


Data Gathering Results Thus Far

The library's subscription costs increase annually, unless in extreme circumstances, i.e., COVID (2020, 2021)

The average amount spent by the Library on publisher subscriptions over the past five years (2019-2024), represents a significant proportion of the annual budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>£13,510.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>£8,185.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>£16,017.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>£20,870.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

No response, 9
Not able to provide data, 7
Provided data without cost info, 5
Provided data with cost info, 4

Responded and still waiting for data, 8

Email responses from data requests sent to 66 publishers (as of April 24, 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>No response, 9</td>
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<td>Responded and still waiting for data, 8</td>
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Emails sent to publishers March 24, 2023, requesting the following UMass Chan publishing data:

- Corresponding author
- Any co-authors
- Article title
- Journal of publication
- Year of publication
- Whether article was published OA
- Journal OA level (Green, Gold, Hybrid)
- Costs
- Article Processing Charges (APCs, page charges, etc.)
- Identification of corresponding author
- Other authors
- Institutional affiliations
- Article OA status
- Journal OA level (Green, Gold, Hybrid)
- Type of copyright license

What have we learned?

- RIS found that publishers are struggling to provide this data as much as libraries may be struggling to gather the data internally.
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