

Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication
Report on Journal Negotiations, November 2018

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

UC is regularly negotiating for journal licenses with publishers. Many of these licenses are negotiated through the UC-wide unit called California Digital Library (CDL), taking advantage of the power of the 10 UC campuses. Several UC-wide groups have stated a strong position to promote open access (OA), and to frame licenses in this light. CDL is currently approaching negotiations with this stance. Below we summarize these actions and UCSC Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication's (COLASC) position with regard to these licensing goals.

1. UC's belief in OA is rooted in the idea that the work of UC faculty and staff should be accessible to everyone, not just those who subscribe. COLASC is fully behind OA publishing, believing it to be an important goal to work towards.
2. The current journal subscription system is unsustainable, with ever-increasing subscription fees that have exceeded inflation. Cost containment is critical. Without it, authors will be required to subscribe to journals from their own pockets given a fixed library budget. Libraries cannot continue to accede to publisher demands, and so need to negotiate for lower costs. COLASC agrees with this vision.
3. The CDL is negotiating with a principle of "off-setting", agreeing to a subscription — ideally with lower costs — combined with lower OA author processing charges (APCs). COLASC supports this general idea.
4. If lower subscription charges are obtained, one idea is to redirect savings toward helping authors pay the OA APCs. COLASC supports this model.
5. COLASC expresses concerns about any models that shift journal subscription expenses on to authors. In the current strategy, the CDL is negotiating lower OA APCs, which is a good outcome. Authors are not required to choose the OA option or to pay OA APCs. In other words, it's optional for authors to choose OA, and so there is not a required increase in the author's cost. Indeed, if the current negotiations are successful, the OA APC will be lessened, and thus authors that choose the OA option will pay a lower fee. However, COLASC strongly advises that there be continued faculty engagement and input around this issue to ensure that costs do not fall unfairly on authors.
6. During negotiations, there may be short-term inconveniences if licenses lapse. Typically, CDL licenses include perpetual access to old content, but in the case of a lapse new content may require researchers to use interlibrary loan, direct author request, tools such as Unpaywall, author-deposited copies, or other options to view new content. COLASC encourages the library to be very active in developing and supporting a variety of options.

Respectfully submitted;

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