

11-4-2020

Where are Library-Supported APC Funds Going?: The Ongoing Role of the APC Fund in Open Access Outreach

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Repository Citation

Wirth, A. (2020, November). Where are Library-Supported APC Funds Going?: The Ongoing Role of the APC Fund in Open Access Outreach. Presentation at Charleston Library Conference, Charleston, SC.

Available at: <https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/libfacpresentation/207>

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WHERE ARE LIBRARY-SUPPORTED APC FUNDS GOING?

The ongoing role of the APC fund in open access outreach

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Question

What is the role of the “traditional” library-supported article processing charge fund?

The poster shares some characteristics of APC funds in the U.S. and Canada. While the number of APC funds is declining, this poster suggests that for an institution just beginning to collectively embrace open access as a legitimate or even preferred model for publishing, the APC fund still has a role.

OA Context@UNLV

2015-2020

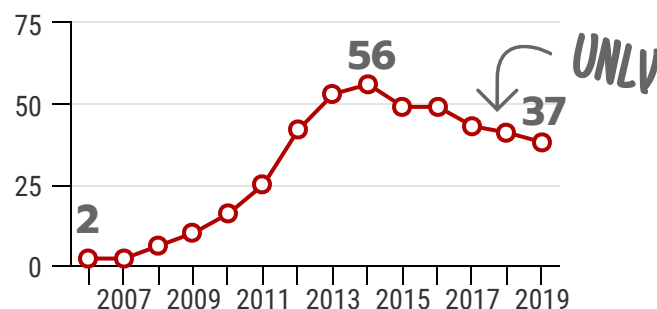
- Robust repository - central to OA efforts, but not everyone on board with “green”
- “Predatory Publishing” is a hot topic
- Authors asking librarians about OA publishing
- New emphasis for UNLV as a growing research institution and importance of dissemination of research
- Gold OA publishing up by 57%¹

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APC Funds Overview

Funds in the U.S. and Canada²

APC funds operating by year



= 69
total funds tracked by SPARC

10.4 Years
longest running fund

24 to 1,444
articles supported by funds ≥ 5 years old

Other characteristics of APC funds

- 65% using DOAJ and/or OASPA in criteria for journals
- After faculty, graduate students are the most supported by these funds (84%), undergraduates next (63%), and staff fourth (52%)
- \$39,493 is the average funding amount reported (U.S. based funds only with limitations on how reported & updated)

UNLV OPEN ARTICLE FUND

The UNLV fund started in 2018 with support from the Libraries Advisory Board (LAB) and the collection development (CD) budget.³ The criteria and process are well established. This program gives us new opportunities to connect with authors about:

- hybrid journals
- the rationale for our criteria
- identifying quality journals
- repository services and green OA
- library financial commitment to OA
- and more!

UNLV APC Fund	2018-2019	2019-2020
Allocation (source)	\$30,000 (LAB and CD)	\$20,000 (CD)
# awards approved	25	27
# articles rejected	8	11
author criteria changes*	expanded to include students and admin faculty	reduced to tenure-track faculty

*changes occurred mid-year

Takeaways

Trends

- Support for APC funds is decreasing
- Funds can last for years or be short-lived pilots
- Possible uptick towards open infrastructure, holistic support for open initiatives, concern over APC model, read and publish, and transformative agreements may be reasoning for decline of APC funds in libraries^{4,5}

Value of Program

- Creates opportunities to talk with authors about OA in a way that a repository, author rights, and other efforts may not provide
- Funding APC in the library establishes ongoing financial support for OA in library and talk of funding from elsewhere
- Relates OA publishing to “wide dissemination” as noted in UNLV’s growing research enterprise

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