We've got support for that: Building an open access publishing community through library support

NCLA 2023. 10/20/2023

Slides link: https://go.uncg.edu/2023nclaOA
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Today we’re going to talk about:

1. What is open access?
2. What is the library’s role in supporting open access?
3. Open access support at UNCG:
   a. Open Access Publishing Fund (OAPF)
   b. Read-publish deals
4. Challenges and opportunities
We’re also going to talk about open access in the context of community.
But first, a Mentimeter!

What's your level of familiarity with open access work?

Go to www.menti.com
- Enter the code 2984 3975

Or go to this direct link:
- https://www.menti.com/al2q1se86adc
Open access
Open Access (OA)?

Open access is a publishing model and a method of sharing scholarship. When materials are published or shared via open access, they are made available online and are accessible to readers at no cost and without sign-ins or other barriers.
Closed access

Content is behind a paywall and access requires a personal or institutional subscription

Closed access may also be referred to as subscription-based, toll access, reader-pays, or traditional publishing
Many different types of content can be shared via open access:

- Journals and articles
- Data sets
- Books
- Pretty much any type of research output!
What can you do with open access materials?
You can:

▷ Read them
▷ Learn from them
▷ Share them
▷ Cite them

(All at no cost!)
You can’t:

Edit or otherwise change them, or reuse the content in your own work, without explicit permission.
Why is Open Access important?

1. Accelerated discovery
2. Public enrichment
3. Improved education

- Public Library of Science (PLOS)
Open access removes paywalls that stand between readers and content.
Funding open access

- Because there are no subscriptions, different models for funding are used in OA publishing.
- Many OA journals use article processing charges (APCs) to fund their publishing activities. Authors pay these fees to the publisher.
- APCs can be quite expensive (hundreds to thousands of dollars; average ~$3,000).
Funding OA publishing can be a major challenge for authors
(We’ll come back to this shortly)
What about OA and the idea of community?
Authors, researchers, librarians, and others might be part of a variety of communities that connect to OA

▷ Library departments, work groups, committees
▷ Disciplinary groups
▷ Research teams
▷ Professional organizations and other groups

These groups might be working toward creating open access scholarly works, and/or sharing OA scholarship
For example

- Publishing and sharing open access articles and data sets
- Creating, sharing, and/or implementing OER materials
- Educating students and early-career researchers about open access
- Citing scholarship published in open access venues
- Serving on the editorial or review board for open access journals
- Sharing article preprints on an open access preprint server / engaging with article preprints shared by others
The library’s role in OA
Different libraries will have different services, roles, goals, and resources when it comes to OA support.
At UNCG, the Libraries can help with:

▷ Open access education
▷ Evaluating open access publication venues
▷ Sharing open access scholarship
▷ Finding funding to support APCs associated with open access publishing
Education
We develop & lead training sessions for researchers

of information literacy: Helping researchers learn to evaluate journal quality

Copyright basics

Scholarly communication

Research Identity: Managing and raising the visibility of your scholarship

Help! Predatory journal! What do I do?!

Open Access: Sharing Your Scholarship

Publishing support in the UNCG University Libraries

https://go.uncg.edu/libpub0920

Anna Craft
Coordinator of Scholarly Communications
Evaluation
We evaluate journals to help authors identify quality publications

Dear Author,

Warm Greetings from Academic 2022!

Congratulations, based on the quality of your recent publication, your paper has been selected for the Best Researcher Award. In this regard, we welcome you to our upcoming event.

Selected Category: Best Researcher Award
Online Nomination: https://x-i.me/ajacadim
Note:

Submit your updated profile under the selected category. Submission is peer-reviewed by editorial members.

Thank You

Warm Regards,

[Partial text]

Dear Anna R,

Greetings from “Applied Psychiatry”.

We are pleased to invite you to submit your article for review. Please consider your publication for our upcoming issue.

Please note that all submissions must be in English and have been peer-reviewed.

Thank You,

Warm Regards,

[Partial text]
What are predatory journals?

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices”

We encourage authors to reach out for assistance if they’re unsure about journals, publishers, and/or conferences.
Sharing
Not everyone who wants to share scholarship openly can afford APCs

At UNCG, authors can also consider sharing via Green OA, in NC DOCKS
We promote and oversee the institutional repository (NC DOCKS)

What is NC DOCKS?

- NC DOCKS is an open access institutional repository - a database of OA scholarship associated with UNCG
- All scholarly works in NC DOCKS have at least one UNCG-based co-author
- Most scholarship in NC DOCKS was initially published or shared elsewhere (journals, conference presentations, etc.)
- In order to add works to NC DOCKS, we have to get permission from the copyright holder
We promote and oversee open access journal hosting

The university libraries host more than a dozen open access journals in a system called Open Journal Systems (OJS)

http://libjournal.uncg.edu/
We help campus authors identify funding to support their OA publishing efforts

Funding Open Access Publishing: Support from the UNCG University Libraries

Open Access Publishing Fund

- The University Libraries offer awards of up to $1,500 to offset the cost of publishing in open access journals
- Who is eligible?
  - Full-time faculty
  - Full-time EHRA employees
  - Enrolled graduate students
- To learn more: https://go.unCG.edu/oapf

About

In addition to offering grants to support open access publishing through the Open Access Publishing Fund, the UNCG University Libraries have partnered with several academic publishers to offer article processing charge waivers and discounts to campus authors.

These “transformative” publishing deals (also known as “read-publish” deals) allow us to test new publication funding models while supporting the creation and sharing of open access scholarship. Because these deals are new and evolving, there may be frequent changes to the content on this page. If you have questions or want to make sure you have the latest information, please contact Anna Craft (arcraft@uncg.edu).

Current publisher deals include:

- Cambridge University Press: APC waivers
- Wiley: APC waivers
- IGI Global: APC waivers
- SAGE: 10% APC discount

https://go.unCG.edu/rarp126
UNCG Open Access Publishing Fund
OAPF: Active for more than a decade!

▷ FY2011-2012 > Started as pilot project between UNCG University Libraries and the Office of Research & Economic Development (now the Office of Research & Engagement)
▷ Program was initially funded at $11,500
▷ The maximum of $1,000 per article was increased to $1,500 per article in FY2021-2022
▷ Current year fund allocation is $42,000
Open Access Publishing Fund

▷ The University Libraries offer awards of up to $1,500 to offset the cost of publishing in open access journals

▷ Who is eligible?
  ○ Full-time faculty
  ○ Full-time EHRA employees
  ○ Enrolled graduate students
OAPF: Applying

▷ **Online application form**
  ○ More info is on the LibGuide:
    ○ [https://go.uncg.edu/oapf](https://go.uncg.edu/oapf)

▷ Journal must appear in *Directory of Open Access Journals* [doaj.org](http://doaj.org)

▷ Team of three faculty reviews applications
OAPF: Cumulative statistics for FY2011-2012 thru FY2022-2023

# Articles Approved: 206
# Articles Reimbursed: 175
# Unique Submitting Authors: 139
# Unique Academic Departments: 25
# Unique Journals: 103
# Unique Publishers: 37

See listing of award recipients per year on the OAPF guide @ https://go.uncg.edu/oapf
UNCG support for read-publish deals
Read-Publish?

▷ New and developing publication models; sometimes called transformative deals

▷ The University Libraries are paying for content from most of these publishers (content we read)

▷ Because we pay these publishers to read, they are including incentives for our researchers to publish with them
Read-Publish and OA

- While we are paying to read content from these publishers (content that is generally not OA), the publish aspect of these deals focuses on OA content.
- Because these deals support OA publishing, they benefit researchers all over the world--not just at UNCG--by making our authors’ articles available openly.
Current UNCG publisher deals & discounts

▷ American Chemical Society (ACS)
▷ Cambridge University Press (CUP)
▷ Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
▷ SAGE
▷ Wiley
▷ IGI Global
▷ MDPI

Full details: [https://go.uncg.edu/oa](https://go.uncg.edu/oa)
American Chemical Society (ACS)

- What’s the deal?: Limited number of APC vouchers
- Who is eligible?: Anyone with an @uncg.edu email address (*to be eligible, you must be the corresponding author*)
- What subject area(s) are covered?: Chemistry and related fields
- Which journals are eligible?: All ACS journals, including gold and hybrid OA
What’s the status of voucher availability for 2023?: We still have vouchers available, and at our current publishing rate, we *should* have coverage through 2023 (but this is not guaranteed).

What about 2024?: We will have a renewed pool of ACS vouchers, starting 1/1/2024.

What if we run out before 12/31/2023?: Those APCs will not be covered. OAPF funding may be available.
ACS APCs vary: Current prices range from $1,685 to $5,000. See the ACS website for more information.

ACS offers additional discounts: to members and those at subscribing institutions.

Additional information is available: On the ACS website.
Challenges: OA and funding
Predatory journals are part of the publishing landscape (unfortunately)

- Many academics receive solicitations from predatory and exploitative publications
- These communications can be confusing, and tactics change over time
- The more articles an individual publishes, the more of these solicitations they are likely receive
- If an individual is in a discipline that produces article-based scholarship, they are likely to encounter predatory journals
Every R&P deal is different

▷ Each publisher deal is different - APC waivers vs discounts, unlimited availability vs limits, different processes to request the use of vouchers, etc

▷ Sometimes there are changes with existing deals

I encourage authors to contact me if questions come up, or if they want to make sure they have the latest information

If you only have bandwidth for one takeaway:

Questions about funding open access publishing?
Ask Anna!

*Your library liaison is also a great first point of contact for any library question! Liaison list: https://library.uncg.edu/info/faculty_liaisons.aspx*
Do authors *have* to publish with one of the journals or publishers that the library has a deal with?

▷ No!

▷ While we have deals/incentives with some publishers, authors can still decide to send their work to any venue they prefer.

▷ Selection of journal/publication venue is part of academic freedom. Authors determine what is best for sharing their own work.
Some publisher communications will show the APC cost associated with the journal, which may be alarming.
In the context of R&P deals, we encourage authors not to worry about the cost

Because of the agreements we have with publishers, there are no additional costs to the Libraries, the university, or to authors who use these APC vouchers.

Authors who see a cost associated with their APC voucher should consider it informational (“this is how much it would cost to publish OA in this journal, if my library did not have a deal with them”). In these situations, the cost will not impact the Libraries, as it is already covered
My research area isn't represented in these deals. Why don't we have a deal with my favorite journal or publisher?

▷ At UNCG, our current publisher deals are weighted more heavily toward the sciences than the social sciences or humanities. Not all research areas will necessarily be covered, and there may not be good journal options for all authors.

▷ R&P deals are a new and developing area, and not all publishers offer them.

▷ Authors have the option to suggest publishers they want us to consider for future deals (but there are no guarantees)
How do I find a good journal for my research with one of these publishers that offers APC waivers?

- We do not have a master list of all journals that are included in our publisher deals
- Some publishers offer tools to assist authors in identifying appropriate publications
  - Wiley: Journal Finder suggestion tool and other tools
- Other publishers may have journal lists and allow browsing/narrowing down by subject
- We encourage authors to consult their liaison librarians for assistance in this area
What if we run out of vouchers?

▷ Some R&P deals offer limited voucher quantities within a given term

▷ Libraries may not always have publishing data available to help them predict demand, especially with new deals

▷ Manuscript review and acceptance processes do not always follow predictable timelines

▷ Vouchers are generally applied at manuscript acceptance (not submission)

▷ Depending on the OA publishing model (hybrid vs gold), if vouchers are not available, authors may have to come up with other funding themselves
OAPF challenges

- Each author’s situation/request is different
- Having to decline some requests for support
- Journal may not appear in DOAJ
- Some journal publishers are predatory
- Authors are limited to one article per year
- Funding logistics at year-end, including carry over to following fiscal year
- Many article processing charges are higher than the $1,500 we are able to offer
What if there’s no deal with my publisher and the OAPF won’t cover my full APC costs?

Is there anything else I can consider?
Other possibilities:

▷ Publish in a closed journal (no APC); then share your work in an open access repository (such as NC DOCKS!)

▷ Check on discounts that may be available through the publisher - for students, for peer reviewers, for society members, etc

▷ If you’re in a financial hardship situation, consider contacting the publisher to ask if they can lower (or even waive) your APC (the worst they can say is no!)

▷ If you have co-authors at other institutions, ask if they have access to OA funding options that can help support your joint publications

▷ Is there other funding available to you - through your department, or through grants?
Opportunities: OA and funding
Finally, some good news!

- We are continuing to fund the OAPF, and continuing to develop and offer R&P deals
- With budget cuts (including library collection cuts) and other challenges on campus, it has been great to be able to share positive news about support that the Libraries can provide to help authors fund open access publishing and sharing
Increased open access publishing options

- We currently have deals and/or discounts with seven publishers, and are discussing/considering additional deals with other publishers.
- The current slate of deals and discounts is the highest number we’ve been able to offer so far, giving authors more OA journal options than ever before.
Education and outreach

▷ With developments in the open access landscape, changes in OA funding availability, the continued presence of predatory journals, and new and changing services, systems, standards, and tools, there will always be something new to learn (and to teach!)

▷ Programs bring in new faculty, graduate students, and other researchers each year. New campus members will likely be unaware of OA support that’s available, and not all students come in with OA experience

▷ An associated challenge: what’s the best way to connect with constituencies?
Some R&P deals are collaborative

- Some R&P deals that UNCG is involved in come from the Carolina Consortium, so there can be many libraries and stakeholders involved.

- This can be challenging in meeting the needs of different constituencies, but it also lets us engage with colleagues from other institutions and hear about challenges and tips they have encountered in this work.
We're learning along the way

- We’ve had a couple of years of experience with some of these R&P deals now, and we’ve gotten to see some of the questions and issues that have arisen.
- We’ve also had some authors provide feedback about the LibGuide.
- The experience and feedback have helped me improve communications about the deals we offer, as well as the information on the LibGuide.
LibGuide example - original setup

American Chemical Society (ACS)

Starting in January of 2023, the UNCG University Libraries are pleased to offer APC vouchers with the American Chemical Society (ACS). ACS publishes more than seventy-five journals in chemistry and related fields, including medicine, nanoscience, engineering, environmental studies, computer science, telecommunications, physics, and more. ACS journals include gold open access titles (in which all content is fully open) and hybrid open access titles (subscription journals that offer an OA publishing option). ACS offers an online resource page to guide authors through this process.

All UNCG personnel—including faculty, students, staff, and others with @uncg.edu email addresses—are eligible to take advantage of this open access opportunity when publishing with ACS. This offer is ideal for researchers who want to share their work openly but who may lack funding for article processing charges (APCs).

In order to receive this benefit, the article's corresponding author must identify themselves as affiliated with UNCG via the provided dropdown menu in the online manuscript submission process. It is also strongly recommended that the corresponding author utilize their @uncg.edu email address in this process. ACS's online publication system will determine author eligibility based on information provided by the corresponding author, and eligible authors will have the option to request free OA publication of their work.

If you are a UNCG researcher who wants help considering or identifying ACS journals that might be appropriate publication venues for your work, contact your liaison librarian for assistance.

Please note that ACS voucher availability is limited within the calendar year, and vouchers cannot be applied to previously published work.

Cambridge University Press

The UNC Greensboro University Libraries and Cambridge University Press have a partnership to support open access publishing for UNCG authors. Through December 31, 2023 UNCG authors publishing articles in Cambridge University Press journals will be automatically eligible for open access publication - no APCs required!

All UNCG personnel—including faculty, students, staff, and others with @uncg.edu email addresses—are eligible to take advantage of this open access opportunity when publishing with Cambridge. This offer is ideal for researchers who want to share their work openly but who may lack funding for article processing charges (APCs).

In order to receive this benefit, the article’s corresponding author must have an email address in the @uncg.edu domain. Cambridge University Press’s online publication system should recognize corresponding authors’ email addresses ending in @uncg.edu; authors should then have the option to select free OA publication of their work. See Cambridge’s website for more information.

Cambridge University Press publishes more than 300 peer-reviewed academic journals covering subjects across the humanities, social sciences, and science, technology, and medicine. They offer both Gold Open Access journals (in which all content is fully open) and Hybrid Open Access journals (subscription journals that offer an OA publishing option). To view the latest list of journals, visit Cambridge’s open access website and click on the option to “Download our full list of APC charges” (xix). In the Open Access status column, journals marked as “Gold OA” and “Hybrid OA” are eligible for APC funding through UNCG’s partnership with Cambridge.

If you are a UNCG researcher who wants help considering or identifying journals that might be appropriate publication venues for your work, contact your liaison librarian for assistance.

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)

For the calendar year 2023, the UNCG University Libraries have a limited number of APC vouchers with the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). RSC publishes more than fifty journals in the chemical sciences and related fields, including journals that publish gold open access (in which all content is fully open) and hybrid open access (subscription journals that offer an OA publishing option).

All UNCG personnel—including faculty, students, staff, and others with @uncg.edu email addresses—are eligible to take advantage of this open access opportunity when publishing with RSC. This offer is ideal for researchers who want to share their work openly but who may lack funding for article processing charges (APCs).

In order to receive this benefit, the article’s corresponding author must have an email address in the @uncg.edu domain, and this email address must be used when submitting the article in RSC’s online publication system. RSC’s online publication system will determine author eligibility based on email address, and eligible authors will have the option to accept or decline free OA publication of their work.

If you are a UNCG researcher who wants help considering or identifying RSC journals that might be appropriate publication venues for your work, contact your liaison librarian for assistance.
After feedback from authors, I added a list of basic deal info at the top of the guide.

In addition to offering grants to support open access publishing through the Open Access Publishing Fund, the UNCG University Libraries have partnered with several academic publishers to offer article processing charge waivers and discounts to campus authors.

These “transformative” publishing deals (also known as “read-publish” deals) allow us to test new publication funding models while supporting the creation and sharing of open access scholarship. Because these deals are new and evolving, there may be frequent changes to the content on this page. If you have questions or want to make sure you have the latest information, please contact Anna Craft (acraft@uncg.edu).

Current publisher deals include:

- **American Chemical Society (ACS):** APC waivers - publish your open access article at no cost!
  
  ACS journals

- **Cambridge University Press:** APC waivers - publish your open access article at no cost!
  
  Cambridge journal list

- **IGI Global:** 5% APC discount
  
  IGI journal list

- **MDPI:** 10% APC discount
  
  MDPI journal list

- **Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC):** APC waivers - publish your open access article at no cost!
  
  RSC journals

- **SAGE:** 10% APC discount
  
  SAGE journal list

- **Wiley:** APC waivers - publish your open access article at no cost!
Wrapping up
Open access creates connections & opportunities

Librarians can help authors understand this

- More exposure for your work
- Practitioners can apply your findings
- Higher citation rates
- Your research can influence policy
- The public can access your findings
- Compliant with grant rules
- Taxpayers get value for money
- Researchers in developing countries can see your work
Any questions?
Thanks!

Anna: arcraft@uncg.edu
Christine: cmfische@uncg.edu
Slides: https://go.uncg.edu/2023nclaOA
Resources:

▷ Open Access APC deals at UNCG
▷ Open Access Publishing Fund at UNCG
▷ Scholarly communications support at UNCG
▷ Copyright support at UNCG
▷ Think. Check. Submit.
▷ Journal Evaluation Tool
Credits

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

▷ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival