Analysis of OA publication costs at Austrian Universities

openCost Expert Workshop, Hamburg, October 5-7, 2022

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Austrian Transition to Open Access 2 – AT2OA2

- January 2021 – December 2024
- Partners: all public universities in Austria, IMP & IST Austria
- Goal: support the transformation to Open Access
- Building on AT2OA (2017 – 2020)
- 64 experts working in 5 subprojects

Sub-projects

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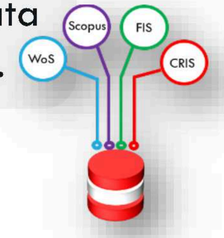
Transformative Agreements (SP1)
Further agreements with scientific publishers

Institute of Science and Technology Austria

BOKU

Austrian Datahub (SP2)
Datahub of Austrian publication data in collaboration with "RIS Synergy".



Predatory Publishing (SP4)
Development of an awareness campaign on Predatory Publishing

vetmeduni

JKU JOHANNES KEPLER UNIVERSITÄT LINZ

Med Uni Graz

UNI GRAZ

Publication Costs (SP3)
Survey and analysis of OA publication costs

NEWS

BLOG

Visibility of OA Publications (SP5)
Investigation of the visibility of OA publications using alternative metrics

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Analysis of Publication Costs at Austrian Universities

Main Topics

- Cost transparency
- "APCs in the Wild"
- Funding for open science infrastructures, crowdfunding, ...
- Perspective: "Information budget" instead of acquisition budget?

Analysis of Publication Costs at Austrian Universities

Starting Point & Challenges within SP3

- Funding models for OA agreements (Read & Publish, offsetting, memberships) are **dynamic & heterogenous**
- Correct administration and **assignment of OA costs is a challenge** (not only) for accounting departments
- From the library perspective OA costs across the whole institution are still **incomplete and not transparent,** correct linking of costs and publications requires much effort

Analysis of Publication Costs at Austrian Universities

Project Targets of SP3

- Develop a reliable and comprehensive data basis
- Know publication costs actually charged by publishers
- Know "all" publication costs covered by institutions on central and decentral levels
- Support reporting systems by improving data quality for statistics, annual reports etc.
- Foster cooperation among all involved units within the university, create synergy effects within the administrative processes

Analysis of Publication Costs at Austrian Universities

Planned actions within SP3

- Set up cost types in accounting systems (incl. training)
- Transfer know-how between libraries and other departments
- Analyse OA publication costs: who pays what?
- Work on uniform standards / procedures / guidelines for handling OA publication costs
- Reconcile data from library management systems, SAP, research information systems and data bases

SP3 so far: April 2021 – October 2022

- **Survey** to determine the status quo at universities: publication costs, SAP, publication funding, third-party funding (September 2021)
- Discussion of and **exchange** about the administration and monitoring of Open Access costs among SP3 partners (March 2022)
- International **workshop** on OA cost monitoring in June 2022

SP3 Survey on OA Cost Monitoring: Results

- Status quo at institutions differs a lot
- Different (historical) structures and responsibilities
- Within most institutions there is no permanent cost monitoring of all publication costs (except for OA agreements)
- Awareness in OA cost monitoring within university management still to be raised
- Collection and analysis of data is performed with SAP, Excel
- Information about all charges paid for OA publications available at accounting departments (only) or not at all

SP3 Deliverables 3.1 & 3.2

3.1: Setting up SAP cost types & 3.2: Training documents

- Argumentation for the establishment of **OA cost types** for university management, controlling and accounting departments;
  Update/revision of the Recommendation on the Booking of Open Access Publication Costs
- Concept for setting up separate cost types for Open Access

SP3 Deliverables 3.1 & 3.2

3.1: Setting up SAP cost types & 3.2: Training documents

- **Guidelines / instructions for a standardization of accounting texts** in accounting systems including arguments as to why this is important
- Target groups: Colleagues at accounting departments, finance & controlling, but also decentralized units such as institutes, chairs, centers, clinics, etc., possibly also publishers (for invoicing)

SP3 Deliverables 3.3 & 3.4

3.3: Workflow description(s) & 3.4: Preparing costs for statistics etc.

- Description of **workflows** for the collection and analysis of publication costs in graphical form
- Guidelines for the handling of **publication costs in statistics** to ensure uniform representation of publication costs

SP3 Deliverable 3.5

3.5: Handling of publication costs from third-party funded projects

- **Consultation** with the Austrian Science Fund and other funding bodies, rectorates, colleagues from accounting / finance / controlling departments and with colleagues who support researchers in third-party funded projects (e.g. grant management)
- Discussion of what role libraries (should) play in the handling of publication costs from third-party funded projects and developing a **concept** (Austrian Science Fund: Publication funding program to be outsourced as of 2024)

What SP3 is also about

- Fostering communication between administrative departments
- Creating awareness
- Sharing experiences, approaches, best practices
- Finding common approaches for cost documentation and monitoring
- Networking

Thank you!