Article processing charges and subscriptions
Monitoring open access costs in the UK
How it started

Developed spreadsheet

Funders adopted it for reporting

2013: 17 institutions

2016: 40 institutions

Data on over 30,000 APCs

All openly available (CC0)
Data should be:

- Standardized and comparable
- Open and available

Should be as easy for institutions as possible
Why open?

» Helps us be accountable to the sector
» Aids our negotiations with publishers
» Allows institutions to profile their spend
» Helps funders to set policy that benefit the sector as a whole
Open APC data creates a transparent market
What we found:

1. APCs are growing
We’re paying more APCs

Growth in APCs, 2013-2015, 14 institutions
Average APC, 2013-2015, 14 institutions
APCs are a growing part of total cost

APC and subscription expenditure, 2014, 10 publishers

- APC expenditure, 12%
- Subscription expenditure, 88%
Is this sustainable?

» Subscriptions are competing with APCs for a share of library budgets

» Library budgets are not keeping pace with inflation

» It is vital to consider subscriptions and APCs as part of the same deal
What we found:

2. The market for APCs looks a lot like that of subscriptions
We're spending on the same publishers

APC and subscription revenue by publisher, 2014

- Royal Society of Chemistry: 22% APC, 78% subscription
- Cambridge University Press: 7% APC, 93% subscription
- Institute of Physics: 14% APC, 86% subscription
- Oxford University Press: 32% APC, 68% subscription
- Sage: 4% APC, 96% subscription
- Nature Publishing Group: 17% APC, 83% subscription
- Taylor & Francis: 11% APC, 89% subscription
- Springer: 10% APC, 90% subscription
- Wiley-Blackwell: 19% APC, 81% subscription
- Elsevier: 8% APC, 92% subscription
...and on the same journals

Hybrid/Full OA expenditure August 2014-July 2015

Full OA, 20%
Hybrid, 80%
The average APC in full OA journals is rising

Average APC by journal type, 2014-2015

- **Full OA**: +22%
- **Hybrid**: +9%
Recap

We’re spending more on APCs
  › More APCs paid
  › Higher average APC

The APC market looks like the subscription market
  › Same big publishers
  › Same hybrid journals
  › Full OA cost rising
» If this all sounds a bit doom-and-gloom—it’s not!
» Jisc uses this data to successfully negotiate offset deals with publishers
» Subscriptions and APCs are considered as part of the same deal
Offsetting agreements

» Royal Society of Chemistry
  › January 2014 – December 2016 - voucher scheme

» IoPP
  › Since January 2014 – credits based on subscription

» Wiley
  › Since January 2015 – credits based on subscription

» Taylor & Francis
  › Since January 2015 – voucher scheme

» Sage
  › Since January 2014 – discounted APC (£200)
Offset deals and APC expenditure

APC expenditure, 2013-2015 (14 institutions)
What’s next?

» Further standardizing how APCs are reported, especially offset APCs
» Easing the burden of reporting for institutions
» Monitor Local and UK: for tracking and reporting APCs
  › 13 institutions signed up so far
Article processing charges (APCs) and subscriptions: monitoring open access costs
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https://www.jisc.ac.uk/reports/apcs-and-subscriptions
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