The SOAP Symposium – III
Open Access Publishing Today: What scientists do and why

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BMC, CERN, MPDL, SAGE, Springer and STFC

Presented by
Salvatore MELE, CERN

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Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?
What about fees?
  How much do scholars pay to publish OA?
  How do they pay?
  How much are they ready to pay?
Why don’t scholars publish OA?
What should be changed?
Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?

What about fees?

How much do scholars pay to publish OA?
How do they pay?
How much are they ready to pay?

Why don’t scholars publish OA?

What should be changed?
Remember…

About 10% of scholarly articles are published in Open Access journals…
Why did you publish OA?
A follow-up survey

(n = 2’594 – 2’664)

Content freely available to readers
Quality or prestige of OA journal
Quality/speed of publishing
No fees
Impact factor
Publisher reputation
Content is re-usable
Reasonable fee
Extended readership
OA journal count for career
Ease to obtain funds to pay fees
Access to grant funding for fees
Journal converted to OA

Irrelevant
Less important
Important
Extremely important
Why did you publish OA?
Scientists who paid fees to publish OA

(n = 1,143 – 1,159)

1. Content freely available to readers
2. Quality or prestige of OA journal
3. Impact factor
4. Quality/speed of publishing
5. Publisher reputation
6. Reasonable fee
7. Content is re-usable
8. Access to grant funding for fees
9. No fees
10. Ease to obtain funds to pay fees
11. Extended readership
12. OA journal count for career
13. Journal converted to OA

Irrelevant | Less important | Important | Extremely important
Why did you publish OA?
Scientists who did not pay fees to publish OA

(n = 1,451 – 1,505)

Content freely available to readers
Quality or prestige of OA journal
No fees
Quality/speed of publishing
Impact factor
Publisher reputation
Content is re-usable
Extended readership
Reasonable fee
OA journal count for career
Ease to obtain funds to pay fees
Access to grant funding for fees
Journal converted to OA

Irrelevant
Less important
Important
Extremely important
Outline

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Why do scholars publish OA?
What about fees?
  How much do scholars pay to publish OA?
  How do they pay?
  How much are they ready to pay?
Why don’t scholars publish OA?
What should be changed?
Which fee did you pay for your last OA article?

(n=22,977)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No charge</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to €250 ($350)</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€251-€500 ($350-$700)</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€501-€1000 ($700-$1350)</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>€1001-€3000 ($1350-$4100)</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than €3000 ($4100)</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not know</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which fee did you pay for your last OA article?

(n=22,977)

- Language and literature studies
- Historical and phil. studies
- Mass communications
- Social sciences
- Education
- Business and administrative studies
- Mathematical and computer sciences
- Psychology
- Chemistry
- Physics and related sciences
- Astronomy and space science
- Engineering and technology
- Agriculture and related sciences
- Earth sciences
- Medicine, dentistry
- Biological sciences

- No charge
- Up to €250 ($350)
- €251-€500 ($350-$700)
- €501-€1000 ($700-$1350)
- €1001-€3000 ($1350-$4100)
- More than €3000 ($4100)
- I do not know
Why did you not pay to publish OA?
A follow-up survey

(n = 1,786)

- The journal did not charge a fee
- Paid by institution/funder
- Fee waived
- Co-authors paid
- Included in society membership
Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?

What about fees?

How much do scholars pay to publish OA?

How do they pay?

How much are they ready to pay?

Why don’t scholars publish OA?

What should be changed?
How was this fee covered?

- Research funding includes: 2,669 (28%)
- Research funding not intended: 2,992 (31%)
- My institution paid: 2,356 (24%)
- I paid myself: 1,179 (12%)
- Other: 449 (5%)

(n = 9,645)
How was this fee covered?  
(n = 9’645)

- Research funding includes
- Funding not intended
- My institution paid
- I paid myself
- Other

- Astronomy and space science
- Earth sciences
- Biological sciences
- Physics and related sciences
- Mathematical and computer sciences
- Engineering and technology
- Psychology
- Chemistry
- Agriculture and related sciences
- Social sciences
- Medicine, dentistry and related subjects
- Business and administrative studies
- Education
How was this fee covered?
(n = 9,645)

- Research funding includes
- Funding not intended
- My institution paid
- I paid myself
- Other

Countries:
- Korea, South
- China
- Japan
- Singapore
- Israel
- United States of America
- Spain
- Poland
- Austria
- Italy
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Finland
- Germany
- Russia
- Mexico
- Sweden
- Portugal
- Brazil
- Taiwan
- Netherlands
- France
- India
- Belgium
- Switzerland
How easy was it to obtain funds?
(n = 8,208)

- Easy: 2,520 (31%)
- Difficult: 4,443 (54%)
- Not used: 1,245 (15%)
How easy was it to obtain funds?
(n = 8'208)
How easy was it to obtain funds?
(n = 8'208)

- Industrial/commercial
- Research institute
- Government
- University or college
- Other
- Hospital or medical school

- Easy
- Difficult
- I have not used these sources

(n = 8'208)
How easy was it to obtain funds?
(n = 8,208)

- Easy
- Difficult
- I have not used these sources

Countries:
- Japan
- Korea, South
- Austria
- Germany
- Taiwan
- Switzerland
- Netherlands
- Singapore
- Finland
- United States of America
- China
- Denmark
- Belgium
- France
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Spain
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- United Korea
- Australia
- Iran

I have not used these sources
Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?
What about fees?
How much do scholars pay to publish OA?
How do they pay?
How much are they ready to pay?
Why don’t scholars publish OA?
What should be changed?
How much would you pay to publish OA?
A follow-up survey

(n = 1’280)

- I would not accept any fee
- Less than €50 ($65)
- €50 - €100 ($65 - $130)
- €100 - €300 ($130 - $390)
- €300 - €500 ($390 - $650)
- €500 - €1000 ($650 - $1300)
- €1000 - €2000 ($1300 - $2600)
- More than €2000 ($2600)
How much would you pay to publish OA?
Those who published and easily paid fees (n=454)
How much would you pay to publish OA?
Those who published & paid fees with difficulty (n=666)

- I would not accept any fee
- Less than €50 ($65)
- €50 - €100 ($65 - $130)
- €100 - €300 ($130 - $390)
- €300 - €500 ($390 - $650)
- €500 - €1000 ($650 - $1300)
- €1000 - €2000 ($1300 - $2600)
- More than €2000 ($2600)
How much would you pay to publish OA?

Medicine and related subjects (n=411)

- I would not accept any fee
- Less than €50 ($65)
- €50 - €100 ($65 - $130)
- €100 - €300 ($130 - $390)
- €300 - €500 ($390 - $650)
- €500 - €1000 ($650 - $1300)
- €1000 - €2000 ($1300 - $2600)
- More than €2000 ($2600)
How much would you pay to publish OA?

Earth sciences (n=81)

- I would not accept any fee
- Less than €50 ($65)
- €50 - €100 ($65 - $130)
- €100 - €300 ($130 - $390)
- €300 - €500 ($390 - $650)
- €500 - €1000 ($650 - $1300)
- €1000 - €2000 ($1300 - $2600)
- More than €2000 ($2600)
How much would you pay to publish OA?

Biological sciences (n=411)
Remember…

About 10% of scholarly articles are published in Open Access journals…

…but about 90% of scholars think Open Access is beneficial
Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?

What about fees?

How much do scholars pay to publish OA?

How do they pay?

How much are they ready to pay?

Why don’t scholars publish OA?

What should be changed?
Was there a reason not to publish OA?

42% gave a reason; 5’000 answers; 60’000 words

- Funding: 39%
- Journal quality: 30%
- Accessibility: 8%
- Unawareness: 7%
- Habits: 4%
- Next time: 2%
- Other: 10%
Was there a reason not to publish OA?

(n = 4'976)
Was there a reason not to publish OA?

(n = 4'976)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Journal quality</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Unawareness</th>
<th>Next time</th>
<th>Habits</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Related Sciences</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine, Dentistry and Related Subjects</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical and Computer Sciences</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering and Technology</td>
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<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Earth Sciences</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Historical and Philosophical Studies</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy and Space Science</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business and Administrative Studies</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do demand and supply for high Impact-Factor OA journals match?

**Biological Sciences**
- Impact Factor distribution: 61, 38, 32, 10, 10, 5, 3, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2
- OA journals, n=164
- Does not publish because of “quality” = 20%

**Medicine and Dentistry and related subjects**
- Impact Factor distribution: 87, 44, 29, 8, 4, 4, 1, 1, 1
- OA journals, n=181
- Does not publish because of “quality” = 23%

**Earth Sciences**
- Impact Factor distribution: 6, 18, 7, 2, 2, 1, 1
- OA journals, n=38
- Does not publish because of “quality” = 32%

**Chemistry**
- Impact Factor distribution: 17, 11, 3, 1
- OA journals, n=32
- Does not publish because of “quality” = 39%
Outline

Why do scholars publish OA?
What about fees?
  How much do scholars pay to publish OA?
  How do they pay?
  How much are they ready to pay?
Why don’t scholars publish OA?
What should be changed?
What should be changed for scientists to publish OA?

(n = 1’060 – 1’077)

- Quality or prestige of OA journal
- Impact factor
- Waivers or no fees
- Publisher reputation
- More good OA journals in my field
- Lower publication fees
- OA journal count for career
- Faster publication process
- Journal converted to OA
- Ease to obtain funds to pay fees
- Recommendation from colleagues

Salvatore MELE | CERN
SOAP Symposium
Summary

Gap between beliefs and actions:
Major limitation: (perceived) lack of high-quality OA journals
Major barrier: fees and funding

Sizable country-by-country and discipline-by-discipline difference

One size does not fit all!
Thank you!

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Project co-ordinator: Salvatore.Mele@cern.ch

Website: http://soap-fp7.eu