

**WEBINAR SERIES**

From Research to Publication: A Researcher's Guide to Open Access

# ChronosHub

**What's Up with APCs and  
How Do I Deal with Them?**

March 31, 2022



CHRONOSHUB WEBINAR

# PRESENTING TODAY

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**Romy Beard**

Publisher Relations at ChronosHub



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Customer Care Specialist at ChronosHub

PhD Researcher

# TODAY'S AGENDA

1

What are APCs?

2

Review of the basics – in  
the context of APCs

3

APC payments: how much,  
how, when & by whom

4

Resources

# LET'S GET POLLING!

Have you published OA?

“

Open Access lifts  
the barrier to  
accessing and  
reading research  
articles

”



# What are APCs?

- An Article Processing Charge (APC) is a fee that an author pays to the publisher to have their article published open access
- APC can also be called Article Processing Fee or Open Access Fee/Charge
- APCs cover the cost of article publication including but not limited to running peer-review systems, copy-editing and typesetting, hosting the article in perpetuity on dedicated servers, and marketing



## PUBLISHING OA

- The VoR (final PDF) is made OA immediately upon official publication in the journal
- No delay
- It is available to read for free on the publisher's website
- No action required from the author
- Under an open license
- Depends on author's choice
- Usually at a cost to the author

VS



## ARCHIVING

- The author needs to put their AAM into an institutional (or subject) repository
- Sometimes an embargo (6-12 months)
- The AAM is only accessible via the repository, the VoR is still behind closed access on the publisher's site
- No action from the publisher in making the article OA
- Usually, no license applies
- Depends on publisher's permissions
- No cost to the author (some exceptions)

# TYPES OF OPEN ACCESS

-  **Hybrid Open Access = Open Access Publishing** in a hybrid journal, where open access and closed access articles co-exist. [APC applies for open access articles.](#)
-  **Gold Open Access = Open Access publishing** in a Gold, or fully open access journals, which include only open access journals [Some gold journals charge APCs, others do not.](#)
-  **Bronze:** Articles are made free-to-read on the publisher website, without an explicit open license. This could be for a limited time only, for example a promotion, or during Covid. [No APCs.](#)
-  **Diamond/Platinum = Open Access publishing:** Publish in open access and the fees are covered by other models such as volunteer work, donations, subsidies, and grants. [No APCs.](#)
-  **Green Open Access = archiving:** Publish in the journal of your choice, deposit a version of the publication (the final publisher version, or Version of Record, or the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in a repository and make it publicly available in Open Access, sometimes after an embargo period set by the publisher. Generally, [No APCs .](#)

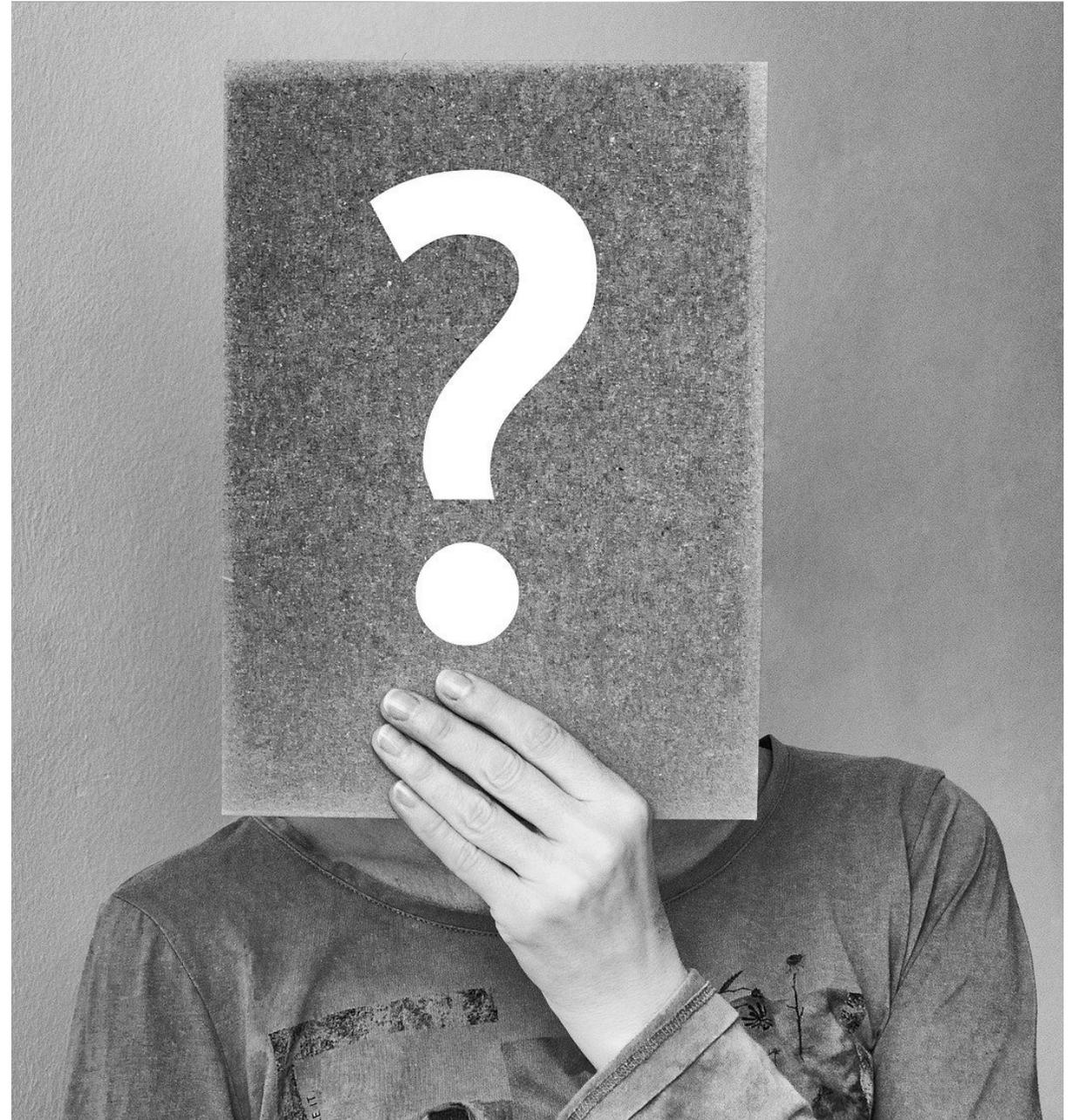
# QUESTION

Frequently asked question from  
ChronosHub Customer Support

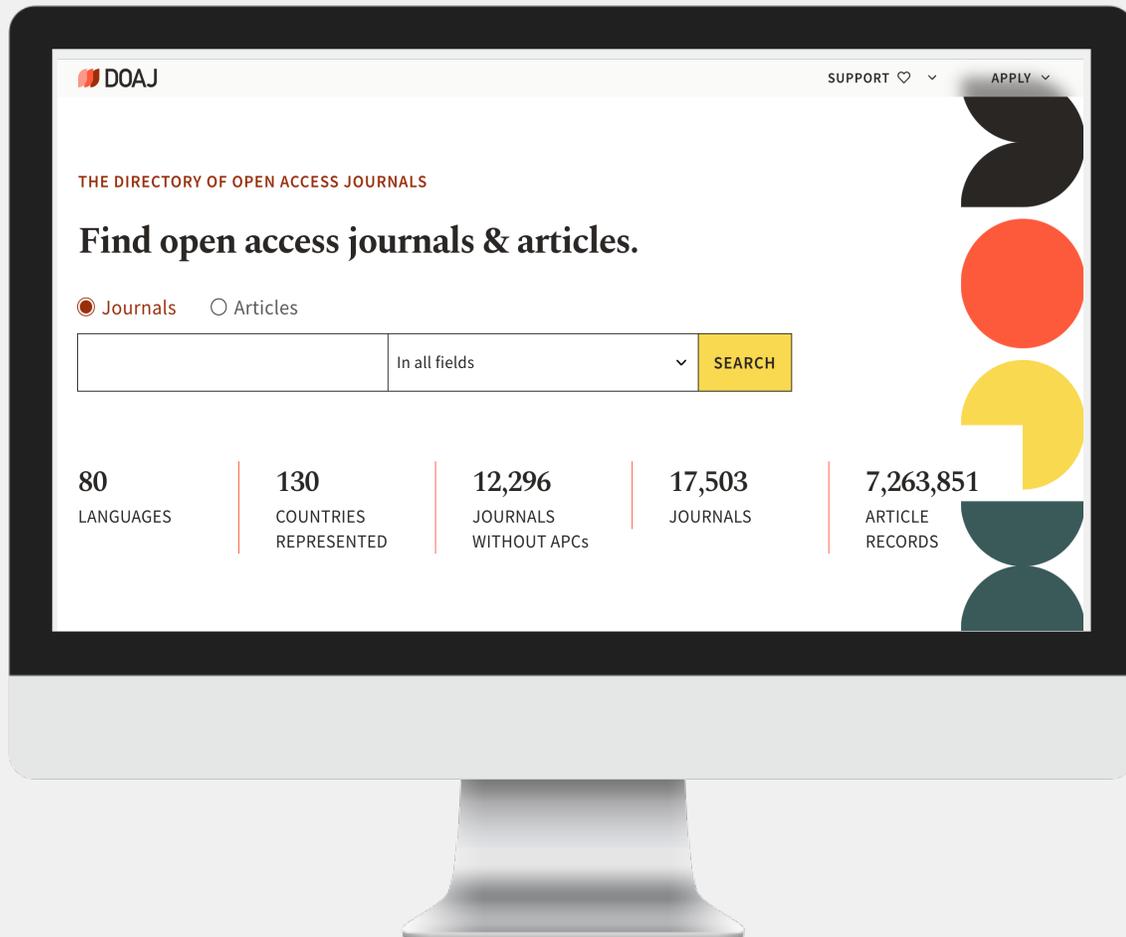
“

Is Gold OA without  
an APC the same as  
Diamond OA?

”



# OPEN ACCESS VS CLOSED ACCESS



If you publish your article in closed access, you don't pay an APC – however, only those with a subscription to the content can read the article.

If you publish your article open access in a fully open access or a hybrid journal, you usually have to pay an APC – then everyone can read the article, no need to pay for access.

In a way, APCs make up for no subscription cost.

Note: some journals allow publishing OA for free!

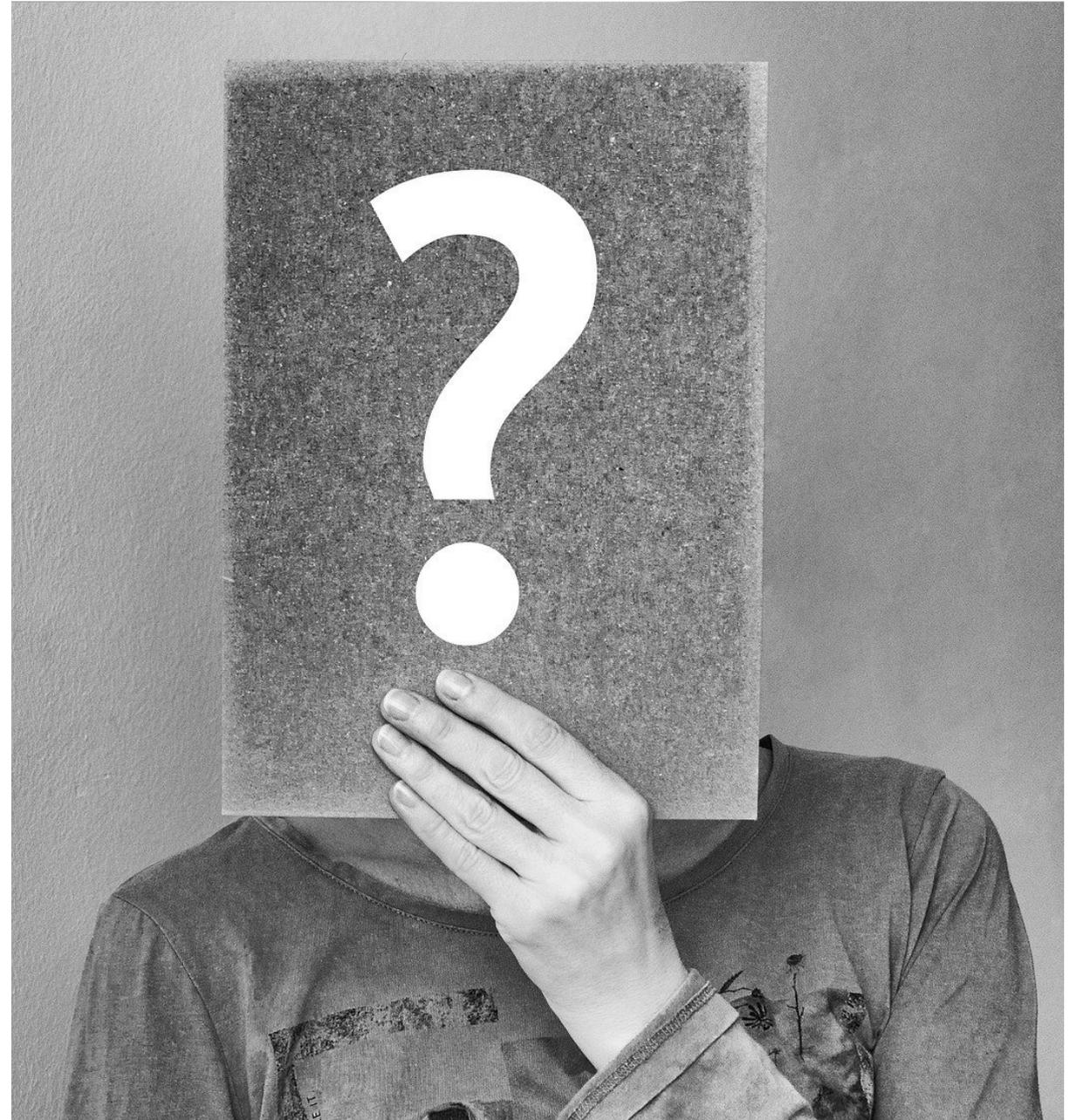
# QUESTION

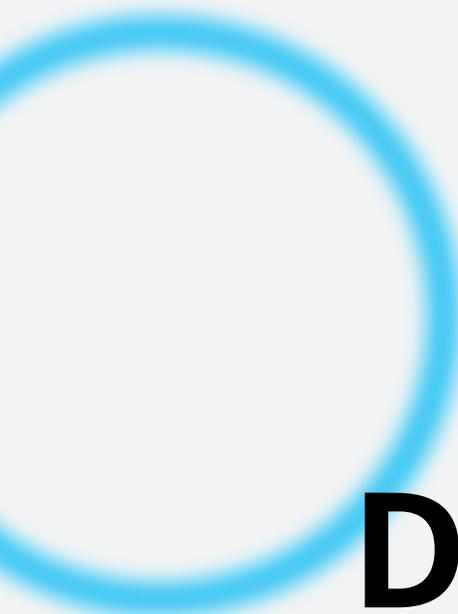
Frequently asked question from  
ChronosHub Customer Support

“

So do publishers get  
money for subscriptions  
and APCs from hybrid  
journals?

”





# DOUBLE *DIPPING*

- Hybrid journals – APC revenue + subscription revenue
- Early 'offsetting' agreements gave subscribing institutions vouchers/tokens to cover APCs for their authors to even it out
- Now, more and more "read & publish" agreements are being signed (more on this in final webinar in the series)
- These agreements combine subscription & publishing spend in one agreement, or one fee
- More people paying attention to "APCs in the wild"

## BLIND PEER REVIEW



The decision to accept an article has nothing to do with publishing open access and paying an APC or not

## EDITORIAL VS. FINANCE



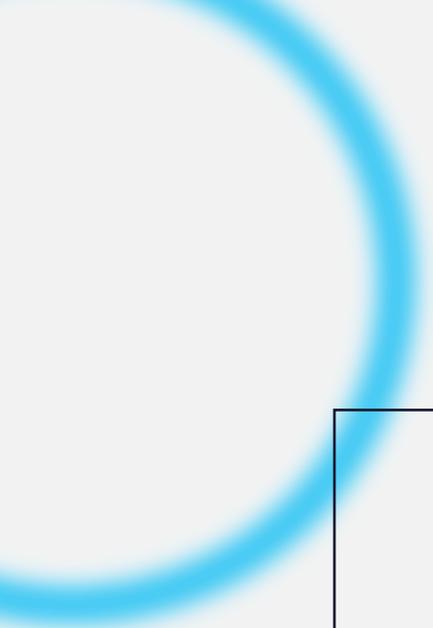
Different teams at publishing companies

## NOT A GUARANTEE



Just because you pay an APC doesn't mean you will get published

# ● APCS AND EDITORIAL ACCEPTANCE DECISION



# WHEN ARE APCs PAID?

- APC is paid after acceptance of your article
- For some publishers, publication depends on payment of the APC, for others it does not
- For hybrid journals, an article might get published behind a paywall until APC is paid (possible funder policy violation!)

# COST PER ARTICLE ●

## WHAT OTHER PER ARTICLE COSTS ARE THERE?

**SUBMISSION FEE:** Some publishers and journals charge a submission fee upon submission of a manuscript to help fund editorial and peer review administration. Charging a submission fee can sometimes help decrease competition and acceptance as only authors with the “confidence” that they have picked the right journal will be willing to pay the given submission fee.

**COLOR CHARGE:** An additional fee that covers all expenses related to color-based figures, text, or the like that are included in the article.

**EDITORIAL CHARGE/PAGE CHARGE:** An editorial charge is sometimes also referred to as a page charge. It’s an additional fee charged when the article exceeds a certain number of pages.

**SUPPLEMENTARY CHARGE:** Supplementary charge is an additional fee that covers any supplementary materials accompanying an accepted article. Supplementary materials may be used for supporting data sets, figures, and tables.

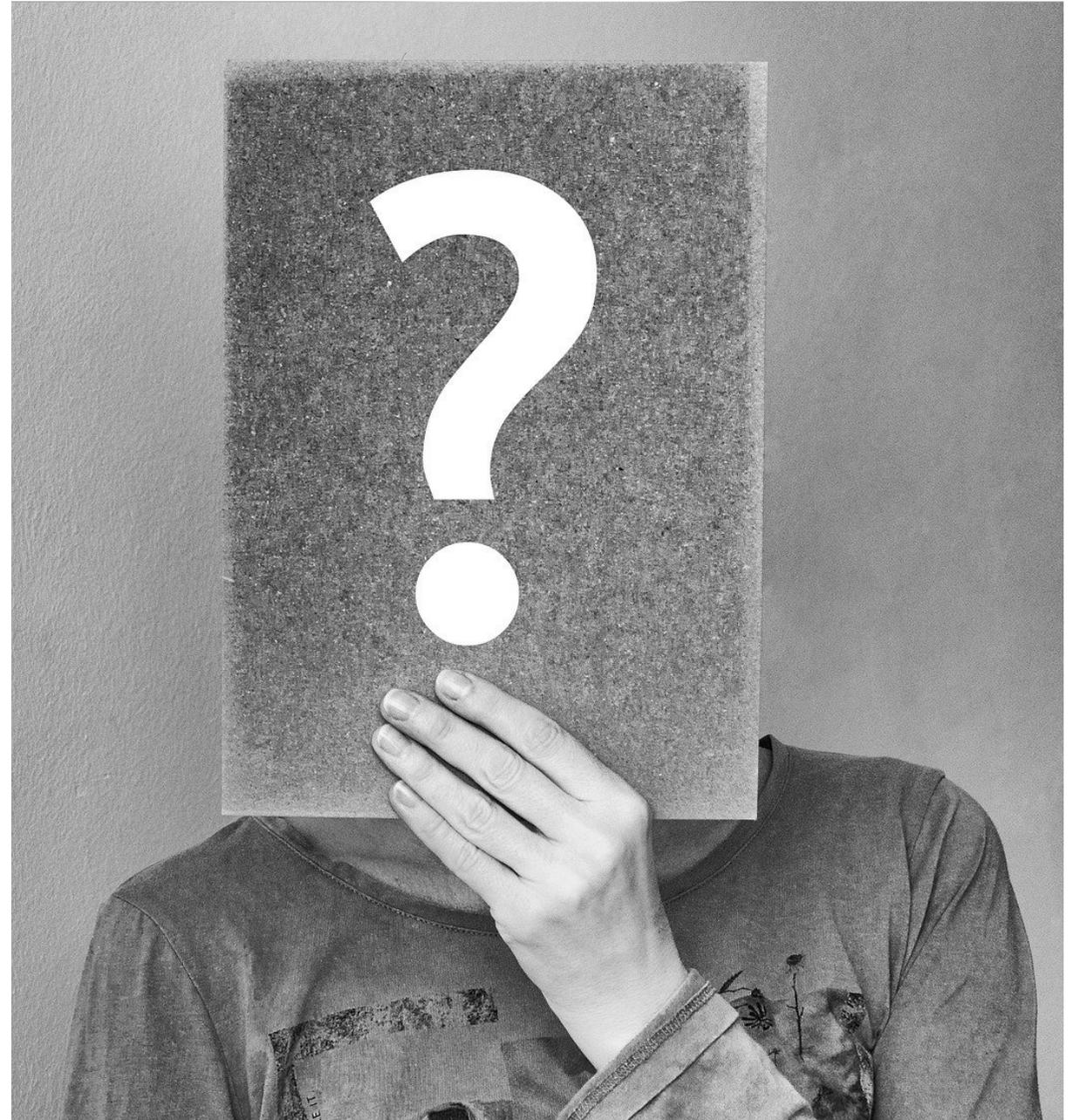
**INVOICE SURCHARGES:** In case you don't pay by credit card.

# QUESTION

Frequently asked question from  
ChronosHub Customer Support



A publisher has offered me the chance to submit my article as 'Guided Open Access' and I need to pay before the article is accepted. What does this mean?





# GUIDED OPEN ACCESS

## SPRINGER NATURE

### A reduced APC for OA in a Nature research journal.

Costs for Guided OA could be substantially lower than the standard APC for OA articles published in the Nature research journals, due to a split APC payment approach<sup>1</sup>:

- An Editorial Assessment Charge of €2190 is payable for all articles passing an initial quality check and entering the Guided OA review process.
- A top-up APC is payable at the journal your article is accepted into (€2600 for authors publishing in a Nature research journal or *Nature Communications* or €800 for publication in a Communications journal).

Pay a charge at submission, and your article is considered for 3 journals (1 fully open access, 2 hybrid)

Can cause issues for funders that only pay APCs for fully OA 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.”

- [Nature 576, 210-212 \(2019\)](#)

“

“...as an unintended consequence of the open access paradigm there is a proliferation of scientific journals that, upon payment by the authors, publish their articles quickly, and with poor or no quality controls, especially those related to the peer review system; these are the predatory journals and publishers.”

- [Learned Publishing, John Wiley and sons \(2022\)](#)

# PREDATORY PUBLISHING

## Quality check

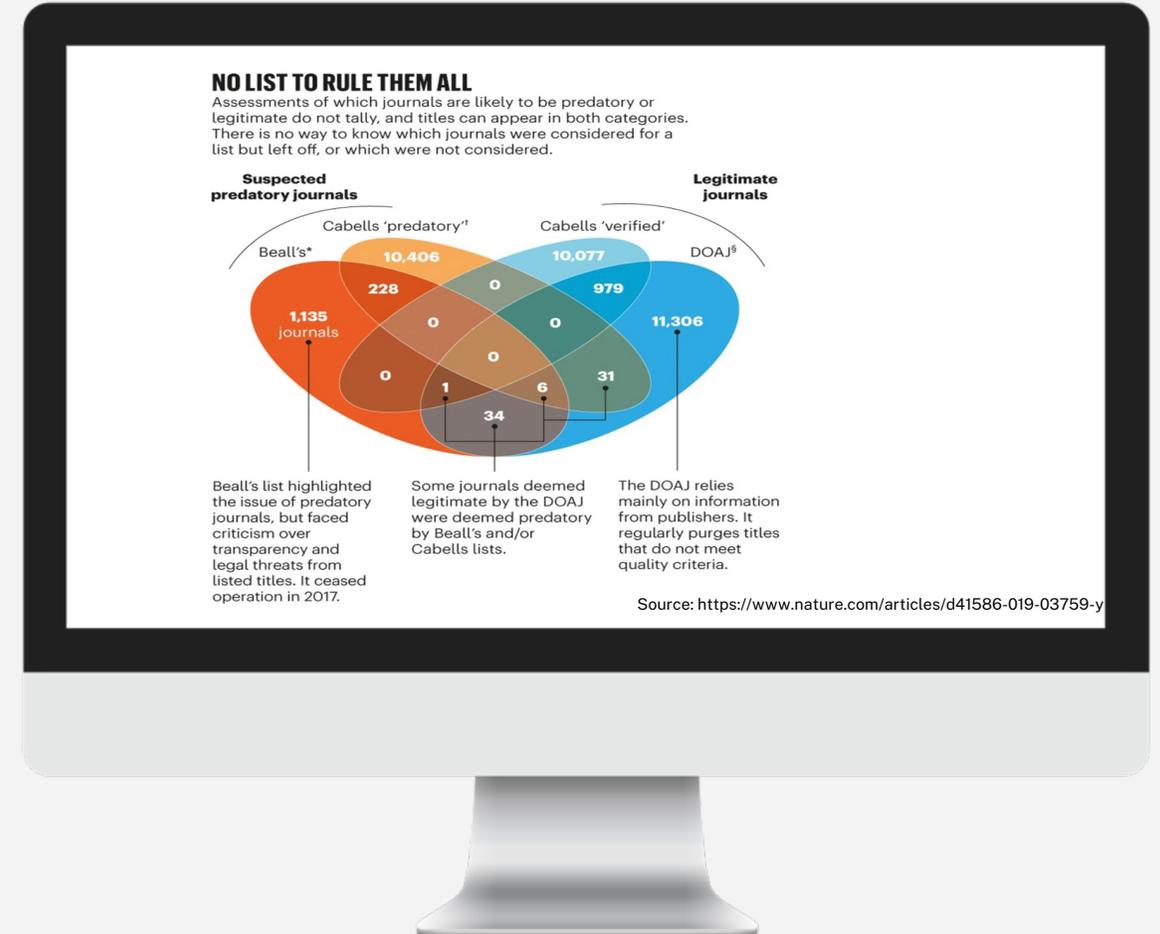
Journals that take payment from publishers to publish articles quickly and low quality. Not the same as a genuine APC fee.

## To avoid predatory publishing:

Check staff working for a journal, check journal and publisher website; consider publishers listed in reputable sources.



<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



## OPENAPC



# HOW MUCH DO APCs COST?

- Some journals do not charge any APCs
- Studies showing that often much lower fees are actually charged than is stated
- OpenAPC project to gather information on actual APC spend
- Average APC for gold vs hybrid journals

<b>Publishers (731 entries*)</b>	<b>Sum</b>	<b>Number of Articles</b>	<b>Mean Value</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Elsevier BV	€51.400.266	19481	€2.638	€1.117	18.13%
Springer Nature	€48.640.460	24448	€1.990	€901	17.16%
Wiley-Blackwell	€24.559.008	10788	€2.277	€798	8.66%
Frontiers Media SA	€24.142.178	13186	€1.831	€602	8.52%
MDPI AG	€19.902.121	15122	€1.316	€452	7.02%
Public Library of Science (PLoS)	€17.915.129	12000	€1.493	€415	6.32%
Oxford University Press (OUP)	€11.052.964	4499	€2.457	€821	3.90%
American Chemical Society (ACS)	€7.341.324	2847	€2.579	€1.085	2.59%
Copernicus GmbH	€5.994.215	4058	€1.477	€622	2.11%
Informa UK Limited	€5.854.476	4005	€1.462	€862	2.07%
Springer Science + Business Media	€5.631.764	3791	€1.486	€504	1.99%
BMJ	€5.617.135	2680	€2.096	€721	1.98%
IOP Publishing	€4.342.797	2688	€1.616	€680	1.53%
Ovid Technologies (Wolters Kluwer Health)	€3.378.849	1098	€3.077	€1.255	1.19%



# WHO PAYS THE APC?

- APCs are paid by research funders, through research grants
- Authors paying APCs out of their own pocket
- Institutions paying APCs on behalf of their researchers
- Within the transition to open access, increasingly libraries are taking charge of the APC spend in their discussions with publishers, through agreements
- ChronosHub pays APCs on behalf of partner institutions or funders

# LET'S GET POLLING!

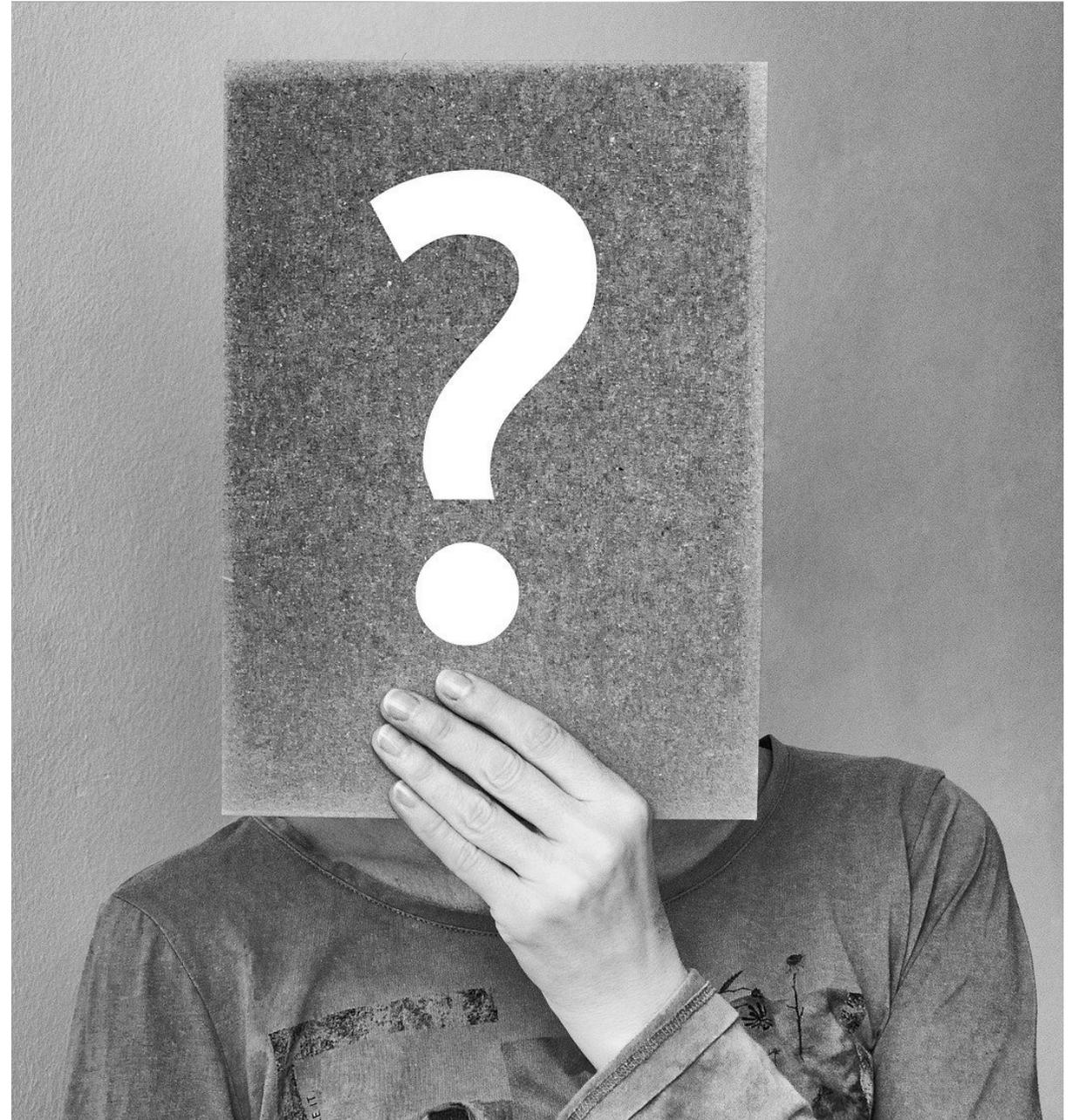
If you haven't published OA, why not?

# QUESTION

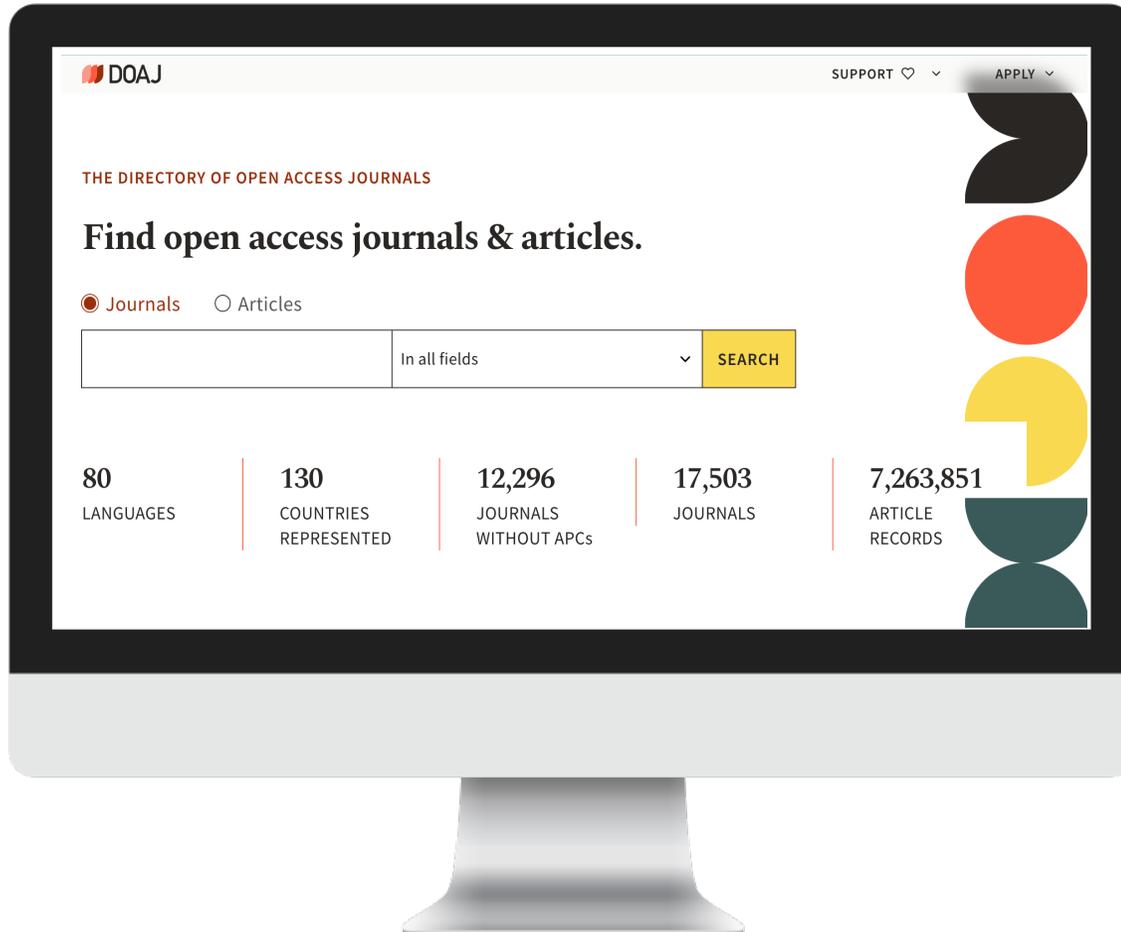
Frequently asked question from  
ChronosHub Customer Support



I don't have the budget  
to pay for an APC. What  
options do I have?



# APC DISCOUNTS & WAIVERS



- Some journals don't charge APCs –12,300 in DOAJ
- Discounts & waivers for low-income countries

- Discounts to editors of the journal, or society memberships
- Apply for a waiver or discount if you don't have any funding

- Institutional memberships discounts
- Read & publish agreements = no APC (some call this a waiver), a set APC, or a discount

-> Usually triggered or requested by the corresponding author at submission



# CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

- The main contact, if more than one author work on article together
- The author who receives email updates about the article's process during the peer review and production process
- The author who will receive the peer review decision on the article and production proofs to check
- The author who pays the APCs or might trigger a discount or waiver, or agreement recognition

# LET'S GET POLLING!

If you have published OA, how was your APC funded?

My invoice address is the same as my address (otherwise enter invoice address below)

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Invoice address

Email \*

Full name \*

Organisation \*

Street \*

City \*

Postal Code \*

State

Country \*

Phone No. \*

# ● HOW ARE APCs PAID?

- Directly covered by funding body (institution/funder)
- Paid for by author, but reimbursed by funding body
- Authors can have an APC invoice sent to their institution, enter their address

Example: Swiss National Science Foundation

# APCs AND FUNDERS

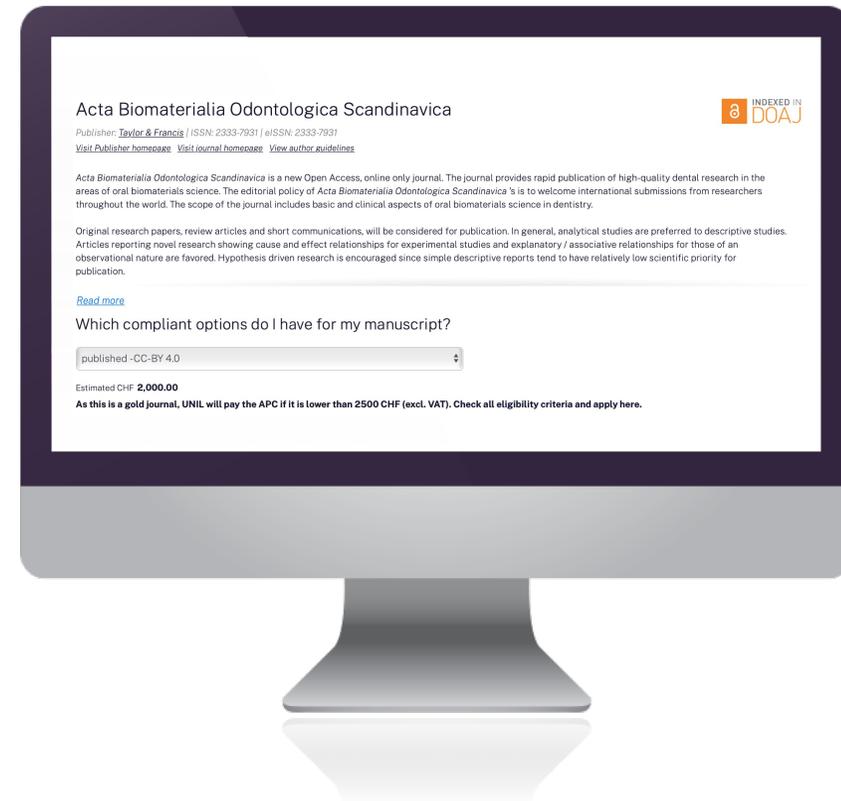
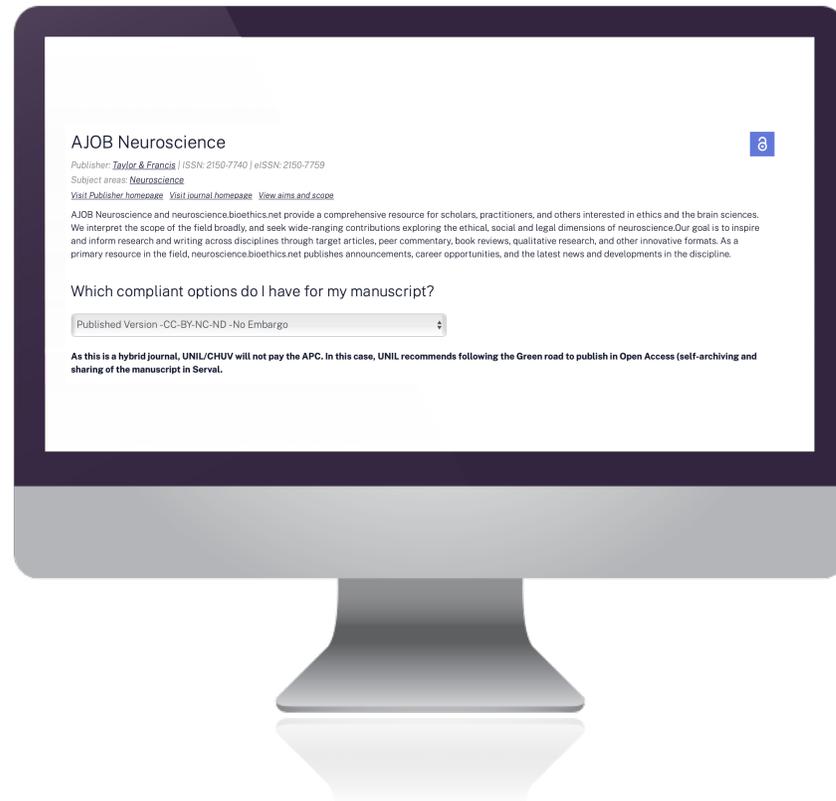
- Some funders pay for APCs directly, especially if there is an agreement between a publisher and a funder, or a provider
- Example from SNSF, if you submit via ChronosHub, APC is paid directly
- Other examples: FNR, FWF, FNRS, UKRI, Wellcome
- Restrictions:
  - Only pay APCs for fully open access/gold journals
  - Max fee
  - Type of article



Example: University of Lausanne

# APCs AND INSTITUTIONS

- Some institutions have an APC or OA fund for their authors – sometimes managed by research admins
- Different institutions have different processes of how the APCs are paid (pay directly, or reimburse)
- Like funders, there can be restrictions, f.ex. only for articles in fully open access journals, only up to a certain amount



# RESOURCES

## Information about APCs

- Publisher's websites, usually split into lists for fully OA journals, and hybrid journals (author choice OA)
- Sherpa Romeo lists whether journals charge APCs or not
- DOAJ lists 17,000 fully open access journals, and lists APCs for most of them, also lists 12,000+ journals without APCs
- ChronosHub Journal Finder 46,000+ journals, filter by journal type and other criteria – includes information about APCs

DOAJ

SUPPORT APPLY

THE DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Find open access journals & articles.

Journals Articles

In all fields SEARCH

80 LANGUAGES | 130 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED | 12,296 JOURNALS WITHOUT APCs | 17,503 JOURNALS | 7,263,851 ARTICLE RECORDS

Support Us Contact Admin

## Welcome to Sherpa Romeo

Sherpa Romeo is an online resource that aggregates and analyses publisher open access policies from around the world and provides summaries of publisher copyright and open access archiving policies on a journal-by-journal basis.

Enter a journal title or issn, or a publisher name below:

Journal Title or ISSN Search

Find the relevant journal for your article

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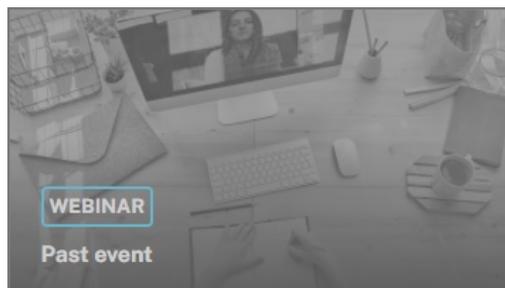
More Information Select

Materials Journal

# WEBINAR SERIES

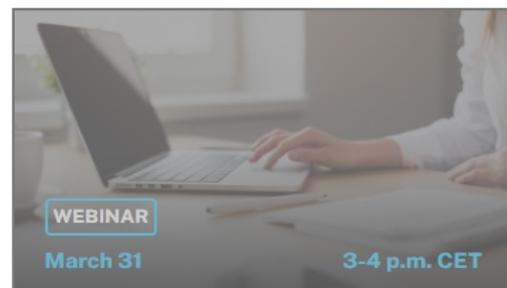
## From Research to Publication: A Researcher's Guide to Open Access

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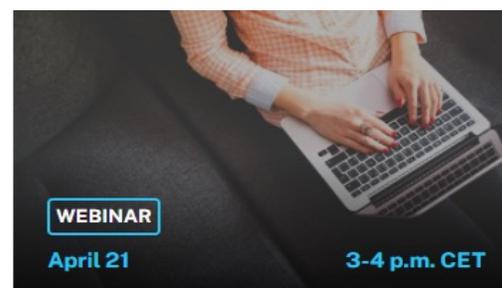
### Why Should I Care About Open Access?

Don't miss the first part of our brand-new webinar series: From Research to Publication: A Researcher's Guide to Open Access. First in line is: Why Should I Care About Open Access?



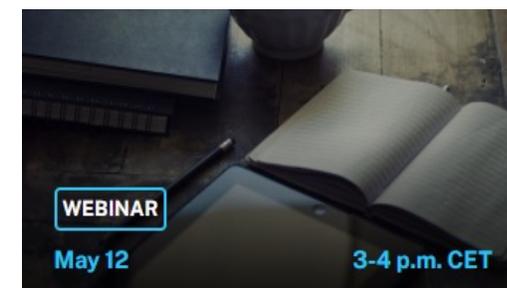
### What's Up with APCs and How Do I Deal with Them?

For the second session in this webinar series, you can look forward to becoming a full expert on article processing charges (APCs)! The hosts for this webinar are Publisher Relations & Business Development Manager, Romy Beard and Customer Care Specialist & Researcher, Laura Davidson, who'll put their heads together and discuss APCs from a to z!



### How Does Open Access Fit with Funder Requirements?

Understanding different funder requirements and the specific terms of a grant in relation to OA publishing is certainly no cakewalk. Tune in for our third session in our webinar series where we look closer at how Open Access fit with funder requirements.



### What Do Open Access Agreements Entail?

Join us as we wrap up our researcher-centric webinar series with a final session where we'll look into why OA agreements are needed and how they come about in a practical sense. Because what exactly do these agreements entail? And what role do discounts, vouchers, and waivers play in this?



Sign up: [chronoshub.io/events/](https://chronoshub.io/events/)

QUESTIONS

# KEEP IN TOUCH



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