



For immediate release  
October 28, 2014

## Libraries Increasingly Fund Open Access Fees

*- New study by PCG shows 23% of libraries cover article processing charges for author submissions to OA journals -*

Boston, October 28, 2014 – Academic libraries are getting ever more involved in the cataloging and funding of Gold Open Access (OA) publications, according to a new survey by industry consultancy, **Publishers Communication Group (PCG)**. Gold Open Access, though generally understood as the freely-accessible, “author pays” model, may actually be covered by sources such as grant funders, employer subsidies or institutional library budgets, the study confirmed.

Seeking to bridge the perspectives of PCG’s publisher and library customers, the survey of 150 librarians from 30 different countries found that at present, the responsibility for funding article processing charges (APCs) is still more likely to fall on the author (47%) or granting organization (38%) than the institution (24%) or library. However, nearly a quarter of respondents stated that the library does provide funding for APCs, which often comes from existing library materials budget. It was estimated that this cost equates to less than 1% of the budget for traditional subscriptions, with 19% of institutions establishing a ceiling for APCs, typically ranging from \$2,000-3,000.

72% of libraries also reported cataloging OA resources, though many estimated these to represent just 1-5% of total catalog listings. Librarians determine which OA titles to catalog from a variety of factors, notably the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Beall’s List of Predatory Open Access Publishers, in addition to relevancy and faculty recommendations.

The future involvement of librarians in the OA movement is inconclusive, with some believing the fiscal responsibility should lie solely with the author and others stating that the library should play a central role by controlling APC funds.



Kate Lara, Head of Market Research at PCG commented: *"Because PCG stands at the crossroads of librarians, researchers and publishers, we field questions from all sides regarding open access publishing and its future impact on these stakeholders. The results of our study largely confirmed our suspicion that OA is presently a small but growing issue for librarians and institutions, while revealing that there are multiple and varied views into how the librarian can play a role in it. While there may not yet be a definitive path forward, there are many opportunities for innovation on the part of both librarians and publishers."*

PCG Senior Publishing Consultant, Janet Fisher will discuss the results of the survey during the session, [Open for Discussion: Open Access Resources and the Role of Academic Libraries](#) on Thursday, November 6 from 12:45-2:00 pm at the 2014 Charleston Conference. The full report is available at [pcgplus.com/whitepapers](http://pcgplus.com/whitepapers).

-ENDS-

#### Notes to editors:

For media enquiries, please contact:  
Michael Groth, Publishing Technology plc  
Tel: +1 617 395 4089  
Email: [michael.groth@publishingtechnology.com](mailto:michael.groth@publishingtechnology.com)

#### About PCG:

Publishers Communication Group, Inc., a division of Publishing Technology, is a full-service marketing and sales consulting firm with locations in Boston, Oxford, São Paulo, New Delhi and Beijing. PCG was established in 1990 as a resource for scholarly publishers to more effectively work with the global library market. PCG offers international multi-lingual telemarketing services, qualitative and quantitative marketing research, customer services operations based in the UK, US, Brazil, India and China, sales representation and strategic consulting.

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