Counting the Dollars: Estimating campus-wide spend on article processing charges

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What we're covering

- Background & context
- The problem
- The solution
- How we used it
- How we can improve

Context

Changing business models, and the "Transformative Agreement"

So what? The value to us



Image: British moths and their transformations, Biodiversity Heritage Library

How universities track APC spend

Pay APC fees

Collect data on APC payments

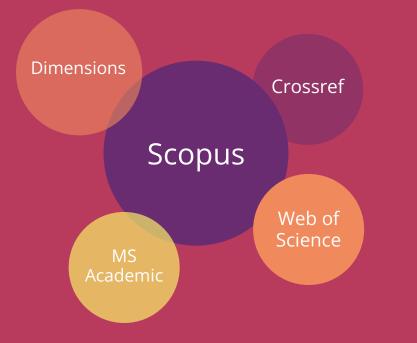
Do nothing

We need to **estimate** the APC spend

The Method



Step 1: Collect publication data



Database requirements

- Bibliographic data for journal articles
- Metadata:
 - Corresponding author
 - Open Access indicator*

Step 1: Collect publication data



Step 1: Collect publication data

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Step 2: Filter

Corresponding author

- Why articles only with an affiliated corresponding author?
- Also available: fractional authorship

Step 2: Filter

Gold Open Access articles

- Immediate Open Access
- Author is paying

Step 3: Collect APC data



- Go to journal website, find the APC for the journals
 - Warning: tedious!

- Alternatives:
 - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
 - Open datasets from bibliometricians

Step 4: Analyze

Summary statistics

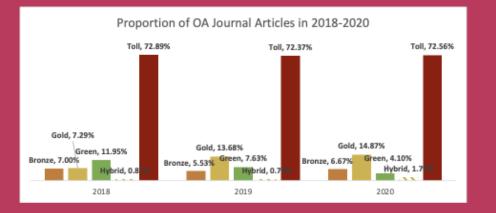
Looking at publishers

Funded vs unfunded research

Open Access publication trends APC spend calculations

Results at the University of Windsor

- Most authors choose to keep their articles behind paywalls
- The most popular publishers differ when considering OA
- Most OA articles are funded



Results at the University of Windsor

• Annual spend on APCs is increasing year over year, but low for the big commercial publishers

Year	Estimated APC spend				
2018	CAD	60,943.18			
2019	CAD	119,570.86			
2020	CAD	135,035.28			
Grand Total	CAD	315,549.32			

Publisher	Estimated APC Spend			
	(2018 – 2020)			
MDPI	CAD	129,310.00		
Elsevier	CAD	27,047.40		
Frontiers Media S.A.	CAD	24,631.80		
Wiley	CAD	21,228.00		
SAGE Publications	CAD	20,740.00		
IEEE	CAD	14,945.00		
BioMed Central Ltd.	CAD	13,237.00		
Public Library of Science	CAD	11,676.62		
Nature Research	CAD	9,711.20		
Copernicus GmbH	CAD	6,879.60		
<u>Hindawi</u> Limited	CAD	5,124.00		
Springer	CAD	4,965.40		
Cell Press	CAD	4,636.00		
JMIR Publications Inc.	CAD	3,599.00		
Arctic Institute of North America	CAD	3,200.00		

Putting this into action

Rationalizing "Big Deal" offers

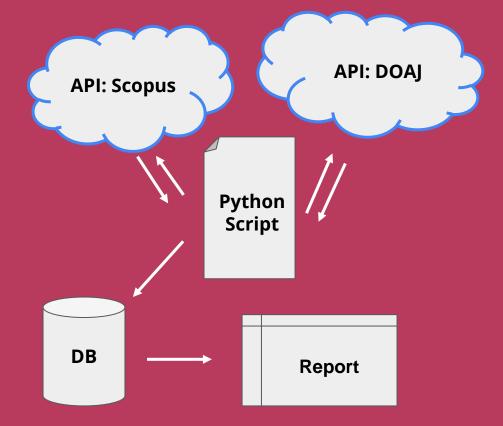
More informed negotiations

Informing partners about APC spend

Educating researchers

Next steps: better metadata, more automation

- Useful information, but tedious work
- Improved metadata
 - Open bibliographic data
 - Better Open Access metadata
 - Better, centralized APC data



Questions & Answers



Stay in touch!

CRKNanalytics



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