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# The perspective from open-access publishers

## Views of Copernicus Publications

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## History of Copernicus Publications

- Founding of Copernicus in **1988** as a spin-off of the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research
- Organization of scientific meetings and conferences since 1988
- **1994** start of Copernicus Publications
- **2001** start of the first **open-access** society journal, followed by the move of the other journals towards OA
- **2016** Copernicus Publications publishes **37** peer-reviewed open access journals and **18** access-reviewed scientific discussion forums
- **34** journals owned by/affiliated with learned societies and other scientific organizations
- **50** staff members, offices in Göttingen, Germany (insourcing)
- Co-founder of OASPA, member of stm, member of ORCID, member of COPE, partner of OpenAiRE
- 179,997 pages/8998 papers published in 2016



## Our way towards open access

- 1994: launch of Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics (NPG)
- 1997–2001: launch/transfer of four journals
  - Owned by the European Geophysical Society (now European Geosciences Union – EGU)
  - Subscription-based
- 2001: launch of Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics (ACP)
  - Owned by the European Geophysical Society (now European Geosciences Union – EGU)
  - Open-access/Interactive Public Peer Review
- 2004: three EGU journals transformed into open access
- 2005: one EGU journal transformed into open access
- 2009: last EGU subscription journal transformed into open-access
- 2004–2013: launch of 11 EGU open-access journals



## Our way towards open access

- 2005–today: launch/transfer of various open-access journals with different learned societies/scientific institutions
- 2010: transfer of Web Ecology from the OIKOS Editorial Office
  - Owned by the European Ecological Federation
  - Transformed into an open-access journal
- 2012: transfer of Geographica Helvetica
  - Owned by the Association Suisse de Géographie (ASG) and Geographisch-Ethnographische Gesellschaft Zürich (GEGZ)
  - Transformed into an open-access-journal
- 2014: transfer of Fossil Record from Wiley
  - Owned by the Museum für Naturkunde
  - Transformed into an open-access journal



## Our status

- Medium-sized open-access publisher
- Proved that flipping the business model is possible (by becoming an author-oriented service provider)
- Proved that transforming journals into open access is possible
- Proved that launching open-access journals is successful
- Financing
  - APCs (28)
  - Institutional support (6)
  - Community fee (3)
- Waivers available (10% of the previous year's pages)
- Central settlement schemes (institutional agreements/prepayments)
  - Reduce burden of the author
  - Reduce transaction costs



## Potentials of big deals/offsetting

- Big deals have to be bought anyway to get the needed literature
- Open-access component can be seen as a reallocation of library budgets
- Increase number of gold open-access articles
- May ease green open access for respective institutions
- If all institutions in the world would have them, all articles would be OA, and there would be no need for subscriptions any longer



## Risks of big deals/offsetting

- OA for authors of institutions
  - Support of hybrid
    - Remains very expensive for other authors
    - Lacking societal impact
    - Difficult identification of respective publications (DeepGreen project)
- No need for big publishers to move
  - Have to agree on OA component, but not to change their business
  - Maintenance of monopoly position
- Other publishers are left out
  - APC model of pure open-access publishers
  - Non-APC models



## Risks of big deals/offsetting

- More costs for research-intensive institutions?
- Industry as “free rider”?
- How about smaller institutions?
- How about smaller countries?
- Developments outside of Europe?



## Conclusion and outlook

- Big deals have their momentum
- This should not lead to a threat for other OA business models
- It is worth negotiating lump sum payments with pure OA publishers
  - Could be based on the number of articles of a given institution in the previous year
  - Would provide planning certainty for institutions and OA publishers



**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**

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