

We paid how much? A case study of APC expenditure at the University of Ottawa

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The University of Ottawa Library, ScholCommLab

We paid how much?

Overview

- Context
 - OA models
 - uOttawa Open Science Working Group
- uOttawa 2022 analysis
 - Methods
 - Analysis & findings
- APC dataset – six large commercial publishers
 - Overview, challenges, uses
- Takeaways and paths forward

OA models

- **Published in OA journal**
 - Gold with APC
Author pays
 - Gold without APC (=Diamond/Platinum)
Free for author – institution/society pays
- **Published in subscription journal**
 - Hybrid
Author and library pay
 - Green
Self-archiving, free for author – possible copyright restrictions
 - Via Transformative Agreement (=Read & Publish)
Free for author – library pays



Open Science at The University of Ottawa



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Open Science Working Group

The University of Ottawa is pleased to announce the formation of an Open Science Working Group, co-chaired by Martine Lagacé, Associate Vice-President of Research, Promotion and Development and Talia Chung, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries.

This work is especially timely as we observe numerous national and international developments in the open science policy landscape, including the Tri-Agencies recent announcement for the review of the Open Access Policy on Publications. The working group will be charged with examining the current state of open science at uOttawa and work to define uOttawa's goals towards open research practices, considering disciplinary practices, our francophonie mission, and recognizing the need for a distinctions-based approach as it relates to projects engaging with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities.

Working Group members

- **Talia Chung**, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, Co-Chair
- **Martine Lagacé**, Associate Vice-President, Research, Promotion, and Development, Co-Chair
- **Stefanie Haustein** (Arts), Special Advisor to the chairs of the Working Group, Associate Professor School of Information Studies (ÉSIS) and co-director of the ScholCommLab
- **Leigh-Ann Butler**, Scholarly Communications Librarian (ex-officio)
- **Daniel Amyot** (Faculty of Engineering)
- **Mathieu Boisgontier** (Faculty of Health Sciences)
- **Kelly Cobey** (Medicine and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute)
- **Éric Dionne** (Faculty of Education)
- **Mistrale Goudreau** (Faculty de Law – Common Law)
- **Sylvie Grosjean** (Faculty of Arts)
- **Evelyn Micelotta** (Telfer School of Management)
- **Jonathan Paquette** (Faculty of Social Sciences and Director of the Collège des chaires de recherche sur le monde francophone)
- **Mark Salter** (Faculty of Social Sciences)
- **Teresa Scassa** (Faculty of Law – Common Law)
- **Lara Mainville** (uO Press)
- **Gishleine Oukouomi Djouonang** (PhD student, Faculty of Social Sciences)

Datasets

→ **uOttawa publications**

- Articles with a DOI published between 2013-2022 (Web of Science)
- Affiliated to a uOttawa researcher (or affiliated centre/institute)
- Cleaned by uOttawa faculty

→ **APC spend for uOttawa (2022)**

- APC list prices (2022)
 - Any uOttawa affiliated author
 - Corresponding uOttawa affiliated author
- Discounted APC according to negotiated uOttawa Library agreement
 - By corresponding uOttawa author

APC dataset

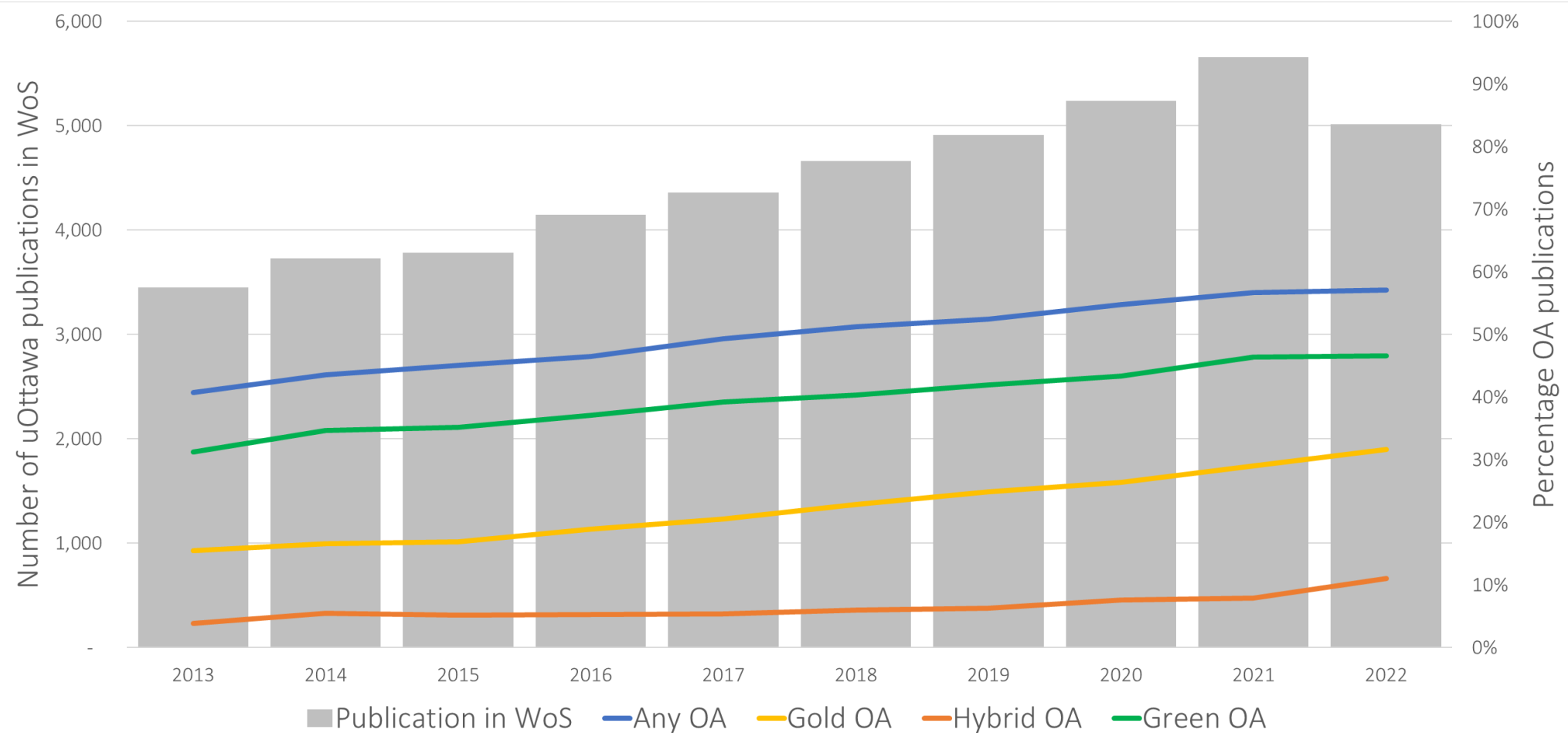
- APC dataset matched to publication data
- APC list prices
 - preliminary version of an APC dataset combining price lists of six large scholarly publishers (Elsevier, Frontiers, MDPI, PLOS, Springer Nature, Wiley)
- Filling gaps:
 - Manually retrieved list prices via Wayback Machine
 - Applied a median to remaining gaps



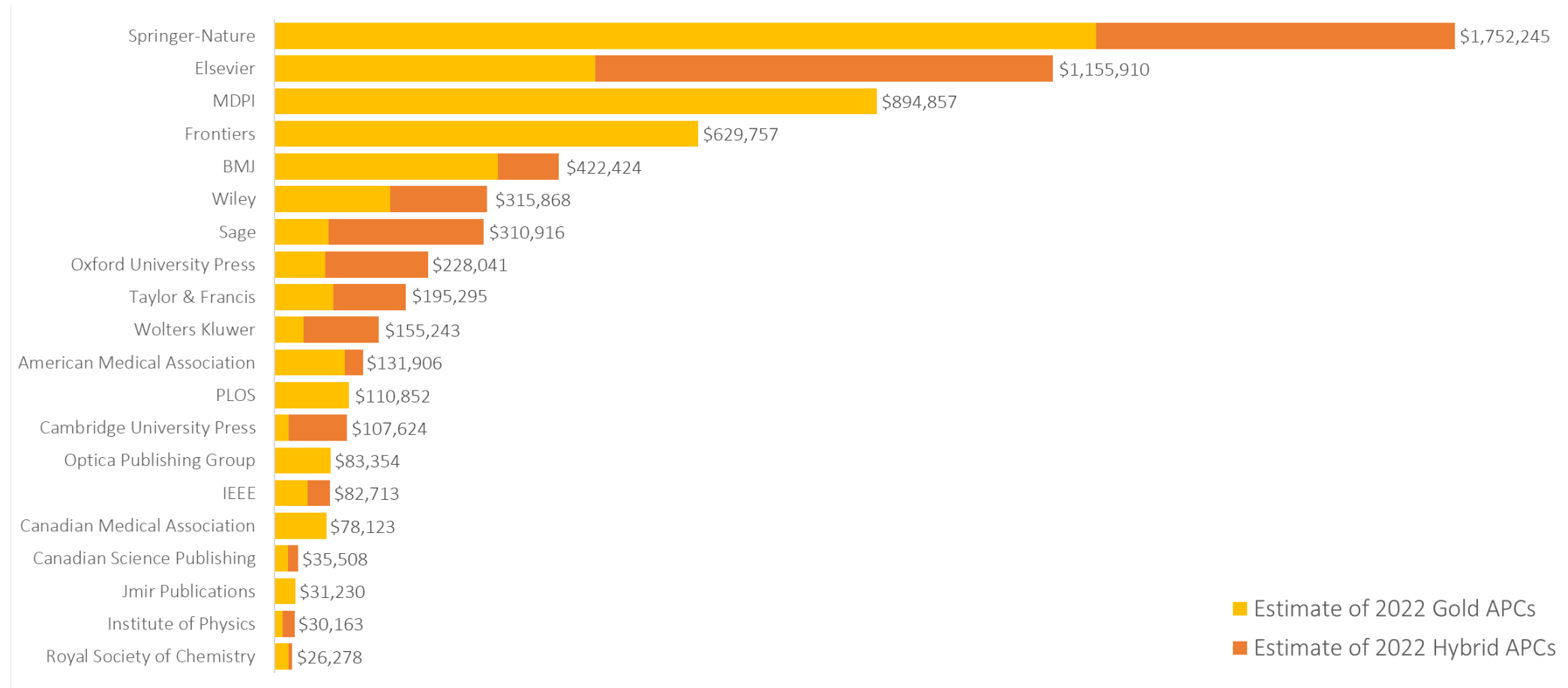
Analysis & Findings

University of Ottawa 2022

Publications in Web of Science 2013-2022



Total estimate of APCs based on 2022 WoS publications: \$7.3 million



Estimate of uOttawa APCs per publisher 2022

2022 publications in Web of Science	Gold OA publications	Estimated gold fees paid by authors (CAD)	Number of hybrid OA publications	Estimated hybrid fees paid by authors (CAD)	Total amount of estimated APCs
WoS 2022 articles with uOttawa author	1,588	\$ 4,893,462	554	\$ 2,446,929	\$ 7,340,390
with uOttawa corresponding author	692	\$ 2,087,657	186	\$ 806,730	\$ 2,894,387
with uOttawa Library agreements		\$ 1,577,133		\$ 573,442	\$ 2,150,575*

uOttawa sources of financing APCs:

- Library Shared Support Fund for gold OA: \$ 133,324
- *Discounts negotiated by library and tied to bundled subscription agreements
- Other sources: Faculty research grants, OVPRI grants, Tri-Agency funding

Estimate of uOttawa APCs 2022 per faculty





APC dataset

Six large scholarly publishers

APC dataset of six large publishers

Overview of dataset

Variable name	Description	Example value
<u>unique_id</u>	The unique identification number assigned to each journal in this dataset.	15
Publisher	The publisher of the journal in the particular year.	Springer Nature
ISSN_1	The first ISSN of the journal, usually but not always the electronic ISSN.	1572-9087
ISSN_2	The second ISSN of the journal; if provided usually but not always the print ISSN.	0252-9602
Journal	The title proper of the journal.	Acta Mathematica Scientia
OA status	The open access status of the journal, indicated by the publisher or journal website.	Hybrid
<u>APC_currency*</u> * for each of following currencies: USD, EUR, GBP, JPY, CHF, CAD	The article processing charge value as provided by the publisher or converted into each respective currency.	APC_USD=2,780
<u>APC_currency originalORconverted</u>	This field indicates whether the respective currency originally derived from publisher price lists or converted from another currency using an annual conversion rate.	original
<u>APC_date</u>	The date of the published pricelist from which the APC value was taken.	2021-02-01
<u>APC_year</u>	The year of the published pricelist from which the APC value was taken.	2021
<u>APC_source</u>	The source of the APC pricelist data.	Publisher website
Collector	The collector of the APC pricelist data.	N. Schoenfelder
Comment	Further contextual or significant details.	Journal transferred from Elsevier to Springer Nature in 2019

Challenges

- We relied on information provided by publisher price lists which was not in a standardized format.
 - Required a large amount of data processing and cleaning.
 - Includes errors
 - E.g., ISSNs assigned to more than one unique ID, and errors in price lists.
- Instances of journals transferring between publishers or OA status changing.
- We minimized enhancement of the dataset (e.g., filling gaps in missing APCs, or OA status), and instead focused on processing the data into a structured, useable format with consistent metadata.

How can it be used?

- Range of potential applications for analyses including:
 - estimating APC spending
 - supporting collections development
 - understanding the cost effectiveness of read-and-publish agreements

- Future versions will aim to supplement missing APC data and verify journal status through manual curation and verification.



Takeaways & paths forward

- Institutional estimates of its APC expenditure requires significant time, resources, and in-depth understanding of the challenges and limitations.
- Investing in robust monitoring tools and infrastructure, greater education and training for researchers on open access, promoting and incentivizing diamond open access publishing, and collaborative consortia OA negotiation are possible paths forward.

Special issue: Call for papers

Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science

→ Special issue in the Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science (CJILS) on current issues in scholarly publishing. The full call for papers is available here:





Thank you!

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