

LUND UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS PUBLISHING IN OA JOURNALS

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In the 2009 budget Lund university has approved of funding publication fees in Open Access journals with 163,000\$ with the intention to encourage and assist publishing in open access journals. The fund will be managed by Lund University Libraries, Head Office. This is one of the largest funds allocated at a university in support of publishing in OA journals.

Already in 2005 the Board of Lund University adopted an OA policy (<http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/fullinfo.php?inst=Lund%20University>)

Among the recommendations in the policy the first one states that “researchers at Lund University, if possible, publish in journals with open access” The approval of the specific publication fee fund in the budget is an important step in the process of turning the recommendation into reality.

Over the last years the number of articles published in OA Journals by researchers from Lund University has increased rapidly. LU has been a member of BioMed Central from the start (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/inst/11900>) using library funding to cover publication fees. In 2007 76 articles published in BioMed Central had at least one author with affiliation Lund University. In 2008 the number had increased to 121.

Thanks to the designated funding for 2009 LU will be able to continue this prepay membership and also a membership with Hindawi Publishing (<http://www.hindawi.com/institutions/lu.se/>) started in 2008. Hindawi is using a flat-rate membership model where the membership fee replaces the individual publication fees in full.

Recently LU also reached an agreement with PLoS . Instead of PLoS standard institutional membership program that give a discount to the publication fee for the authors the Head Office will pay the full publication fee for each article published by LU affiliated authors.

Through these memberships LU authors will have the possibility to publish in over 300 quality controlled STM journals that are open access without having to be concerned about the publication fee. Advantages with this arrangement are that it increases the

incentive for researchers to publish in OA journals, supports a wider dissemination of LU research and the authors retain the copyright to their articles. A centralized approach also simplifies the administrative handling of the publication fees and makes it more cost-effective.

We also expect to get some requests for publication fee funding from researchers who are publishing in OA journals that are not covered by these memberships. We have decided not to use money from this fund to pay publication fees in hybrid journals. We find it unreasonable to pay both a subscription cost and a publication fee to the same journal. Although some publishers have stated that they will cut subscription prices in proportion to the number of OA-articles published we have decided to leave them out, at least for now.

An uncertainty with this kind of membership is that one can't really make a budget in the same way as with e.g. subscriptions. What we have done is making estimates of the increase of papers published by LU authors in BioMed Central and PLoS publications. By early fall we expect to see if our estimates are reasonable. BioMed Central will supply us with quarterly updates on the outstanding balance in our account and PLoS will bill us a monthly invoice so we think that we will have a reasonable control along the way. If we find that the demand is higher than our funding we have to try to get more funding, either by getting fresh money from the university or close down the memberships until a new budget is approved. To turn this into a sustainable solution a rapidly increasing cost of publication fees probably must be balanced in some way by diminishing costs in the acquisition of subscription-based information.

During March and April the Head office will run an information drive to inform researchers at the university about the advantages of OA publishing and our memberships.

Since the subjects that are covered by these OA-publishers are almost exclusively biosciences and technology we are looking for ways to support open access publishing in social sciences and the humanities and this is something we will work on this spring.

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