Preparing institutions for the transition: consortial cost-sharing model in Austria

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Context

**Austrian Academic Library Consortium**
- 60+ institutions
- Bottom-up organisation
- No central funding for agreements

**Open Access**
- 2014: 1st OA-publishing agreement
- Subscription-only consortium contracts converted to OA deals in a cost-neutral manner

**Pricing – until 2019:**
- Mostly Read & Publish Agreements
- Lump sum to publisher
- Based on legacy spend
- No internal cost-sharing mechanism

**Work in Progress**
- Approx. 30% of all articles published in fully OA venues
- c. 55% of all articles are eligible for one of the transformative agreements
- > 85% in OA-ready venues

2021 Web of Science & Scopus data, research & review articles, with corresponding authors from a member institution, applying agreements from 2023
Why a new cost-sharing model?

Example: Read and Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11

Discrepancy between existing expenditure and publishing value

2022 Read & Publish fees paid
APC value in 2022

Discrepancy between existing expenditure and publishing value
Consortium-wide consultation & review

Making this financial move **in one go: too challenging** for institutions.

**2019:** first transformative cost-sharing model: „Tiering Model“

**2022:** further consultation and review

**MODEL REQUIREMENTS:**

✅ a **gradual shift** towards publishing-based costs

✅ while **preserving a „reading“ element**

✅ has to be relatively **simple** and

✅ **transparent**

✅ **rational**
New model - parameters

based on Dr Nina Schönfelder’s smooth transition model*

1. Starting point: institution's existing spend
2. As publisher's OA-share grows, the publishing component of the fee becomes more prominent

- # of publications by the institution
- Publisher's OA share within its hybrid portfolio
- Article Processing Charges
- Existing (subscription) spend with publisher

Example: Read & Publish agreement with Publisher X, Institutions 1-11

BEFORE

Discrepancy between existing expenditure and publishing value

AFTER

Gradual increase

Discrepancy between existing expenditure and publishing value

Decreasing costs
Still an annual **lump sum**

**Predictable:** we set the fees for the duration of the agreement

**Prepares institutions** for an article-based economy

**Individual pricing** for each institution
Redistributing costs – beyond Austria

Agreement with publisher A
- APC value 2023
- Institutional agreement costs 2023

Too much money in the system

Agreement with Publisher B
- APC value 2023 for all relevant articles
- Institutional agreement costs 2023

Additional funding required
Need for the redistribution of costs on an international level

- Unequal distribution on an international level
- Countries with comparable GDP per capita should pay comparable fees for comparable services
- Joint task for publishers + consortia / countries

1. Repurpose “surplus” in agreements where we “overpay” for agreements where we need additional funding
2. Publishing in fully OA journals
3. Building infrastructure that removes author-facing charges
Thank you!

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