

Modeling costs of transformative agreements and open access publishing


The [DEAL agreements](#) in Germany provide a framework to orient institutional investments around open dissemination of research, but budgeting for the open access publishing needs of researchers can be challenging for stakeholders. While previous library subscription fees are known, the entity of investments in open access publishing of articles (APCs) before the DEAL agreements is, in most cases, unknown, as publishing trends of authors were not previously tracked and payments were largely made outside of central oversight.

In order to re-orient budgets to support the open access publishing-based DEAL agreements (as opposed to subscription-based costs), libraries need to have a complete overview of their publishing profile and the price trends of hybrid and fully OA (gold) APCs—something not fully tracked in most libraries.

To help libraries gain such insight, MPDL Services GmbH, the operating entity for Germany's nationwide DEAL agreements, has launched [the DEAL Cost Modeling Tool](#), an interactive, Excel-based tool that incorporates industry-standard bibliographic and financial data with a robust methodology to give libraries the ability to calculate their current and projected total costs with DEAL agreement publishers, automatically. The DEAL Cost Modeling Tool generates projections automatically, making it easy for institutions to:

 **gain insight** into the publishing trends of their authors

 **benchmark** the entity of previously hidden open access publishing costs

 **calculate** the immediate financial impact of DEAL's publication-based costs and compare these with other cost scenarios

 **forecast** long-term savings, or funding requirements to support the needs of their scholars, in the transition of scholarly publishing to open access

[Click here to explore the tool >>](#)

Key insights gained

The DEAL CMT brings to light the key cost elements in scholarly journal publishing and enables users to model cost projections under a selection of relevant scenarios. Some of the key insights gained in the German-wide projections of the tool include:

- There is a strong growth trend in OA gold articles by German authors, pre-dating the DEAL agreements
- Hybrid OA, in particular, is a huge cost driver outside a transformative agreement—successfully neutralized and reined in with the DEAL agreements
- High growth in OA gold subtly shifts the costs to produce a certain cost-containing effect within the DEAL agreements
- The OA gold discounts also have a very strong and positive effect on the overall cost structure