

# Japanese Open Access initiative by a group of universities

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## Background of Japan

1. Individual universities must sign individual contracts, not a comprehensive consortium contract.
2. There is no national negotiating body of transformative agreements that leads the negotiations as one group of universities. (JUSTICE is an opt-in consortia.)
3. Universities have different departments for e-journal subscriptions and APC payments, and have not been able to integrate them into a single contract. (In Japan, APCs are mostly paid by individual researchers' research funds.)

**Japanese Government**

- The Japan's open access policy will be formulated by the summer of 2023.
- The policy is being considered to include
  - immediate open access of academic papers, and
  - development of a national negotiation system centered on a group of research universities

**JUSTICE**  
Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources

556 university libraries (as of April 2023)

Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources contributes to the enhancement of Japan's academic information infrastructure through the license arrangements, management, provision, and long-term preservation of e-resources as well as through the development of human resources.

March 2023 - Revised JUSTICE OA2020 Roadmap  
April 2023 - Launched Open Access Working Group

Collaboration and cooperation in negotiating with publishers regarding transformative agreements, etc.

**RUC** Research University Consortium

41 universities and research organizations (as of April 2023)

Research University Consortium shares good practices and discusses common issues related to strengthening research capabilities from a higher perspective.

April 2023 - Launched liaison committee for academic information distribution regarding e-journal transformative agreements. Currently, eight universities are participating.

The liaison committee, led by Professor Amane Koizumi (National Institutes of Natural Sciences), Tohoku University, The University of Tokyo and Tokyo Institute of Technology, initiated activities.

**The First Penguin Team**

Volunteer activities as a pioneer of transformative agreements in Japan (Negotiations with Wiley, Springer Nature and Elsevier)

Prof. Koizumi & Tohoku University, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo Institute of Technology

## The First Penguin Team

- Start with Prof. Amane Koizumi, and library directors and librarians from Tohoku University and Tokyo Institute of Technology. Currently, a librarian from The University of Tokyo is also participating.
- Agile activities with a very small number of members
- Negotiate in a small team considering expanding TAs nationwide through JUSTICE

## Our achievement

- Japan's first transformative agreements with major publishers, Wiley and Springer Nature

## TA negotiations with

### Wiley

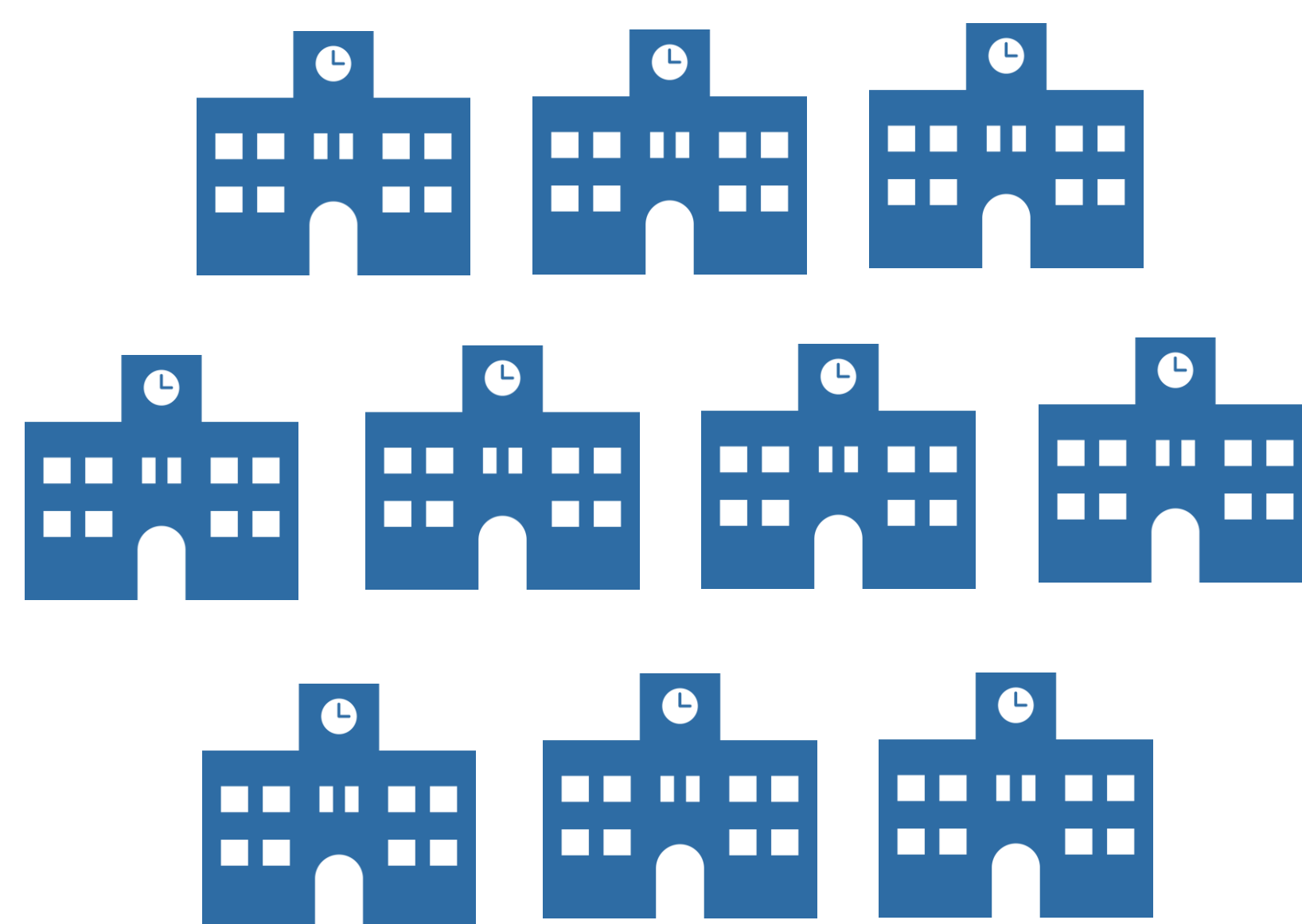


October 2021 – First contact

April 2022 – Started TAs with 4 universities (Tohoku University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies, and Tokyo University of Science)

January 2023 – Additional 14 universities signed TAs in collaboration with JUSTICE (Currently 18 universities in total)

### Springer Nature



May 2022 – First contact

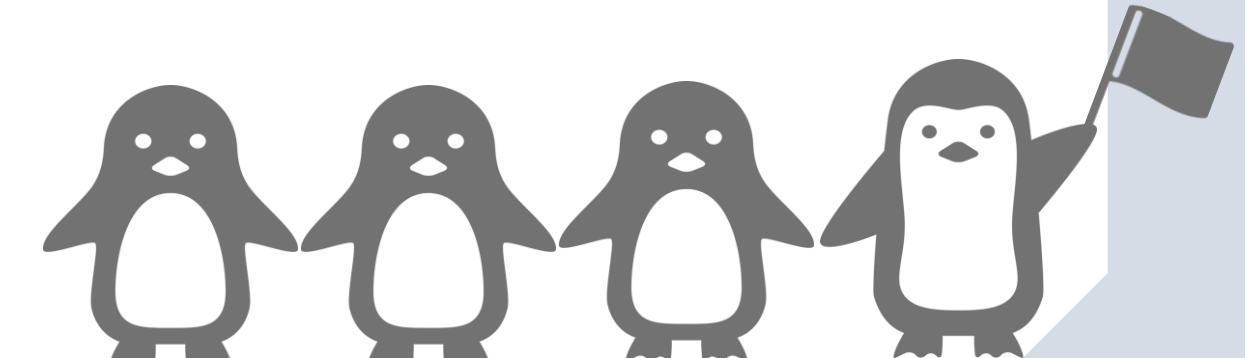
January 2023 – Started TAs with 10 universities

### Elsevier

Created a larger negotiating body in collaboration with JUSTICE

November 2022 – First contact

In the final stage of negotiations aiming to start TAs in January 2024



## Future Prospects

- Expand OA by promoting the TAs throughout Japan
- Support for full open access is essential. Seek a “new contract model” that is not a TA.
- Cooperate in setting up a national negotiating body in line with national policy