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.)

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

Elsevier

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