

Advancing Open Access in Japan: Policy Framework and Strategies



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Who We Are: Open Access for Scholarly Empowerment (OASE)

Established: In 2024 under the Japanese government's initiative to promote open access.

Leader: Prof. Noriko Osumi (Director, Tohoku University Library).

Team: Includes experts from universities and research institutes.

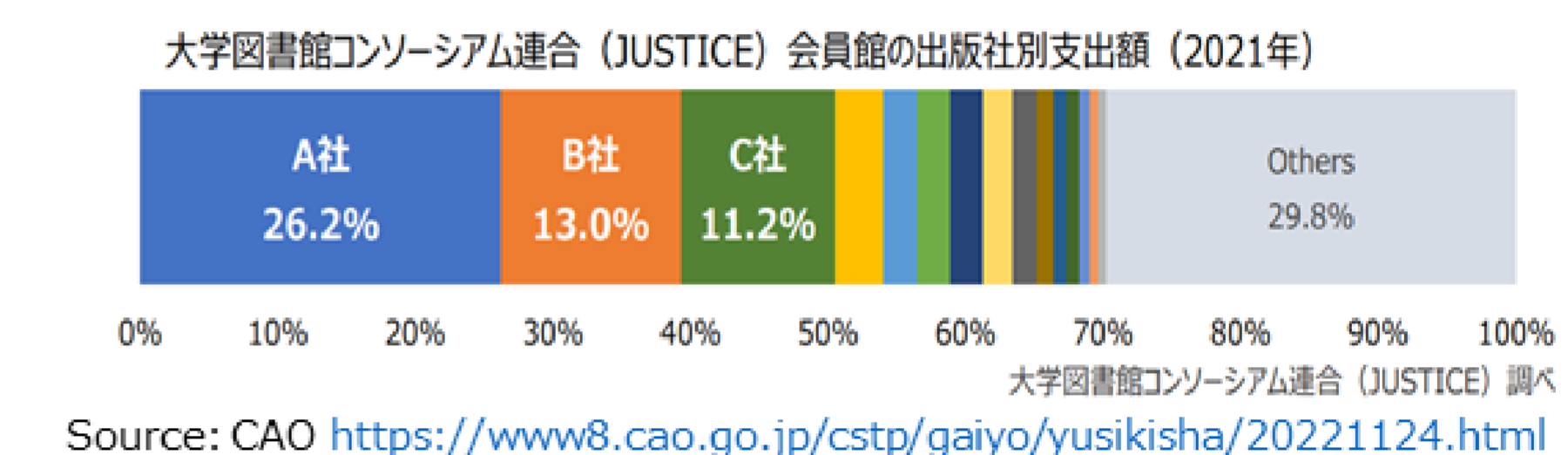
Mission: Negotiate with global academic publishers. Develop a collective bargaining system for universities and research institutes. Align with the National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data.

Background

- Publicly funded research outputs, including scientific data and publications, should be accessible to all. However, global academic publishers dominate scholarly communication.
- Rising subscription fees and APCs have increased the financial burden on universities and researchers, raising concerns about sustainability.
- To boost Japan's competitiveness, researchers need an environment to freely share outputs, and the public must have broad access to intellectual assets.

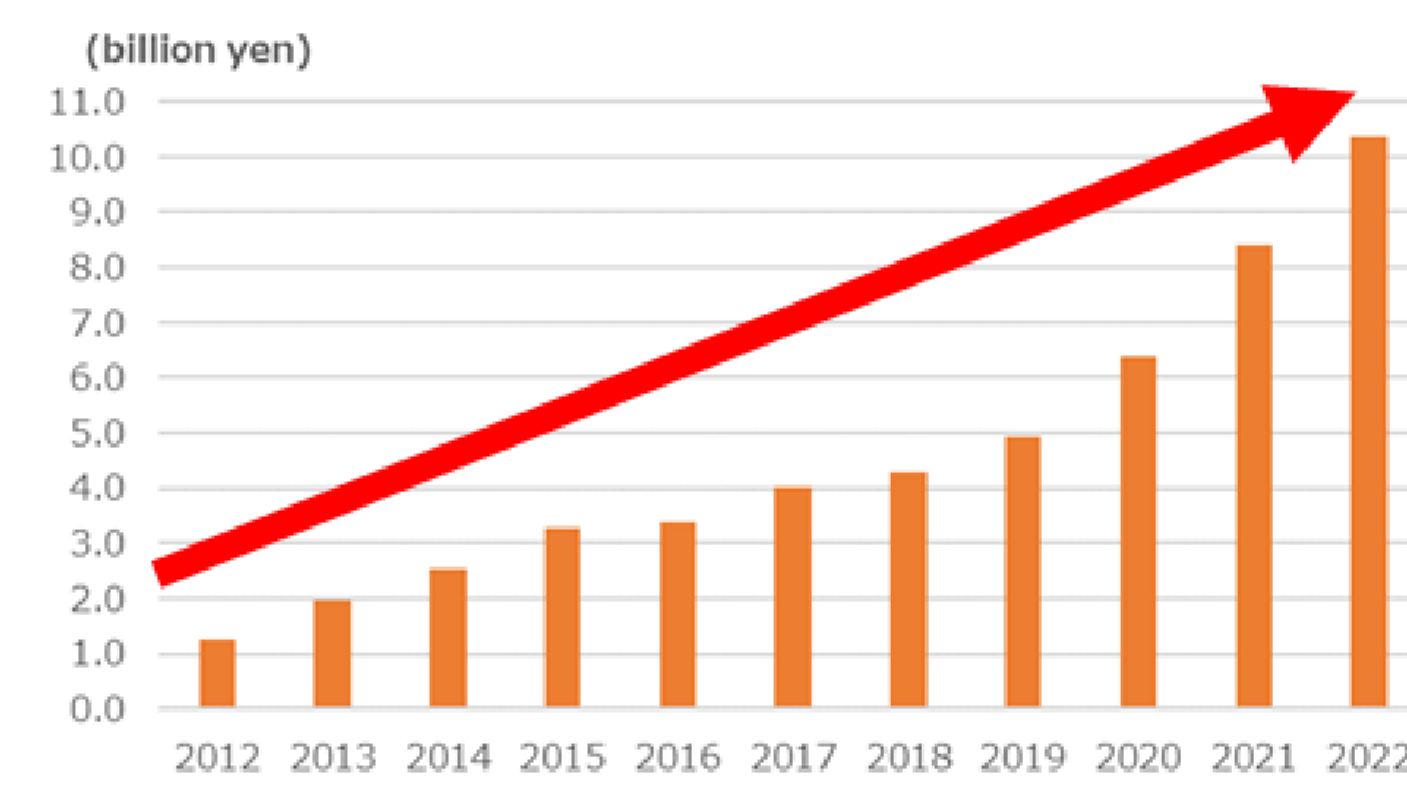
Market domination structure by academic publishers

Over 50% share of international journal subscription expenditure by **the top 3 companies**



Rising APCs

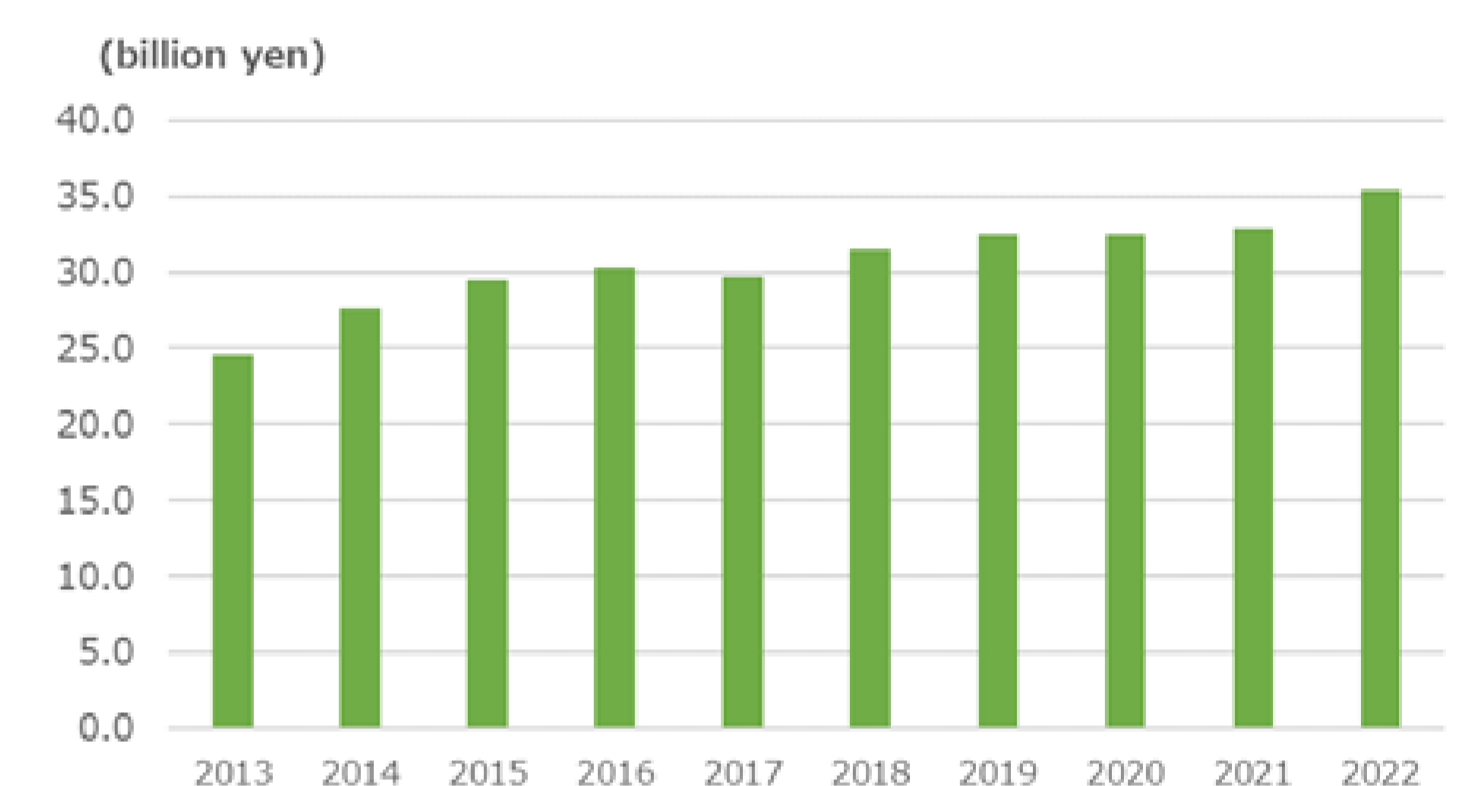
APCs are **2.4 times over 5 years**
8.3 times over 11 years



Prepared by the Cabinet Office based on the "Report on the FY2023 Survey of Open Access Publication and Article Processing Charges (APCs) in Japan" by the JUSTICE

Rising Subscription Fees

E-journal subscription fees* are **1.1 times over 5 years**
1.4 times over 10 years



*Including transformative agreements
Prepared by the Cabinet Office based on the "Survey of Academic Information Infrastructure" by the MEXT

National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data
Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council, February 16, 2024

Philosophies

- Make publicly funded research outputs accessible to the public to address global challenges
- Optimize the financial burden of the total amount of subscription fees and APCs across Japan
- Enhance the global dissemination of Japan's research outputs

Cabinet Office HP https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216.pdf

Key initiative

Immediate open access for publicly funded research outputs for new applications starting from FY2025 onward

Government Actions

- Support universities and research institutes in enhancing their ability to negotiate with global academic publishers.
- Improve information infrastructures for the management and utilization of research outputs.
- Enhance the dissemination of research outputs.
- Promote international collaboration in research.

OASE: Current & Future Activities

Current

- Developing strategies to reduce financial burdens for institutions.
- Coordinating collective bargaining efforts among universities and research institutes.
- Raise awareness of open access among researchers.

Future

- Finalizing negotiation frameworks with global academic publishers.
- Expanding collaboration with international stakeholders to advance open access.