



# Open Access Transformation at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

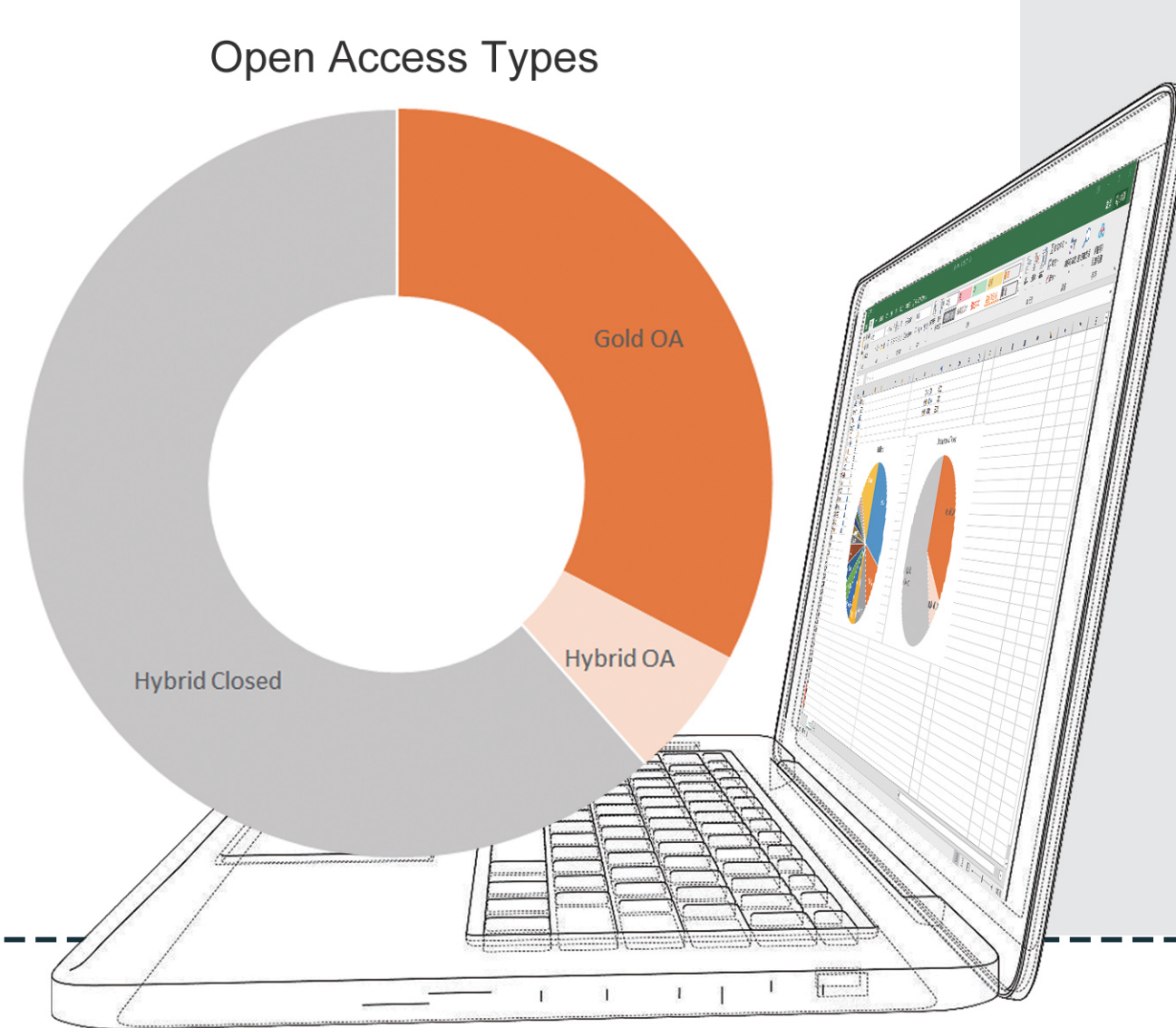
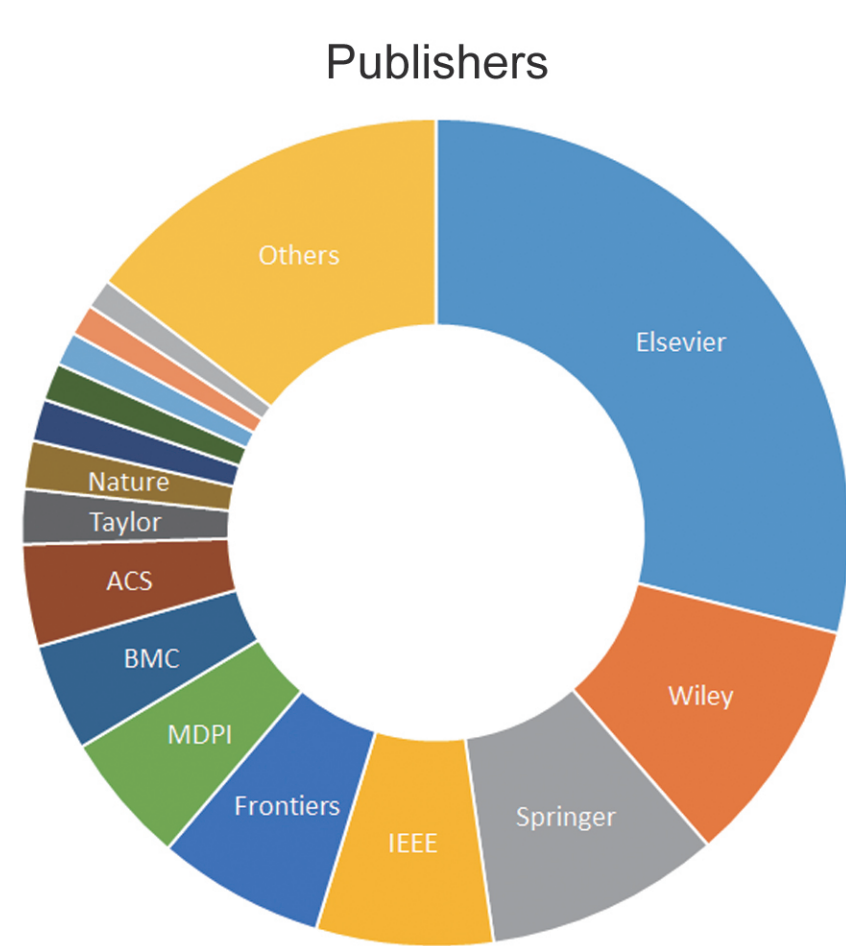


## Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Founded in 1896, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) is a comprehensive, innovative, and international university (QS World University Rankings: 45th).

## 2023 Publications by SJTU Corresponding Authors

Total publications: 13,000+  
OA proportion: 40%  
Average APCs: \$2,900



## Open Access Transformation

Read & Publish: CUP, RSC  
APC Discount: MDPI, IEEE  
Subscribe to Open: Annual Reviews, Astronomy & Astrophysics, De Gruyter, American Physiological Society  
Others: SCOAP<sup>3</sup> Book



## General Principles for Transformation Negotiations

Strive to implement a cost-neutral transformation model in China  
Library Subscription Fees + Author APCs = TA Costs (or with an affordable increase)

## 01 Read & Publish

In 2021, SJTU led the negotiation of the "Cambridge Journals Database DRAA (Digital Resource Acquisition Alliance of Chinese Academic Libraries) Purchasing Plan," introducing the Read & Publish model for the first time in the consortium. SJTU became the first university in mainland China to sign a transformative agreement (TA) with CUP.

### Key Features of the Plan

- **Flexible Options**  
Institutions can choose between the traditional subscription model and the Read & Publish model based on their needs.
- **Cost Control**  
Compared to the traditional subscription model, the subscription price under the Read & Publish model increased by only 8%.
- **Publish Fee**  
Free OA Article Cap = Publish Fee / CUP's Average APCs  
30%-40% of the subscription fee is allocated to cover OA publication.  
Unused quotas can roll over to the following year, unless the TA has ended.
- **Discounted APCs**  
If the article cap is exceeded, additional OA articles will be offered discounted APCs.
- **Journal Coverage**  
Free OA publication quotas can be used for all journals, including hybrid and fully OA journals.
- **Customized Funding Strategies**  
Institutions can tailor their APC funding policies. For example, SJTU funds corresponding authors with priority given to articles published in OA journals.
- **Participating Institutions**  
A total of six universities in China have joined the CUP's Read and Publish project.
- **Transparency**  
The agreement has been registered with the ESAC Initiative.

## 02 Subscribe to Open (S2O)

The S2O model is another sustainable path for open access transformation. SJTU actively responds to this trend.

- Maintain subscriptions to Annual Reviews and Astronomy & Astrophysics
- Participate in the S2O projects of De Gruyter and the American Physiological Society in 2025
- Allow SJTU authors to publish OA papers for free in 400 journals, further advancing the development of open access



## Challenges

- **Affordability**  
If entirely reliant on the APC (Article Processing Charge)-based OA model, the cost of publishing OA papers for Chinese universities could double, creating significant financial strain.
- **Sustainability**  
Over the past decade, the publishing costs for OA papers at Shanghai Jiao Tong University have increased by more than 20% annually, posing a serious challenge to long-term sustainability.
- **Coverage**  
Current transformation agreements have a limited scope in terms of OA paper coverage, failing to meet the demand for fully open access.

## Future Prospects

- Advocate for more reasonable APC pricing to reduce the financial barriers for researchers.
- Promote the development of the S2O model, exploring more sustainable OA paths.
- Collaborate with relevant institutions to drive the transformation and implementation of OA at the national level in China.