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Copernicus Publications

The Innovative Open Access Publisher

You publish. We care.



The real costs of OA publishing & the potentials of a fully OA paradigm in scholarly communication

Martin Rasmussen

B14 conference | 3 Dec 2018

Copernicus at a glance

- Founded in **1988** by scientists as non-profit society
- Scientific conferences organized since 1988
- Journal publisher since **1994**
- Flipped to OA in **2001**
- Today 41 peer-reviewed journals
- **2017**: 4,863 journal articles, 3,650 discussion papers
- 56 staff members in Göttingen, Germany



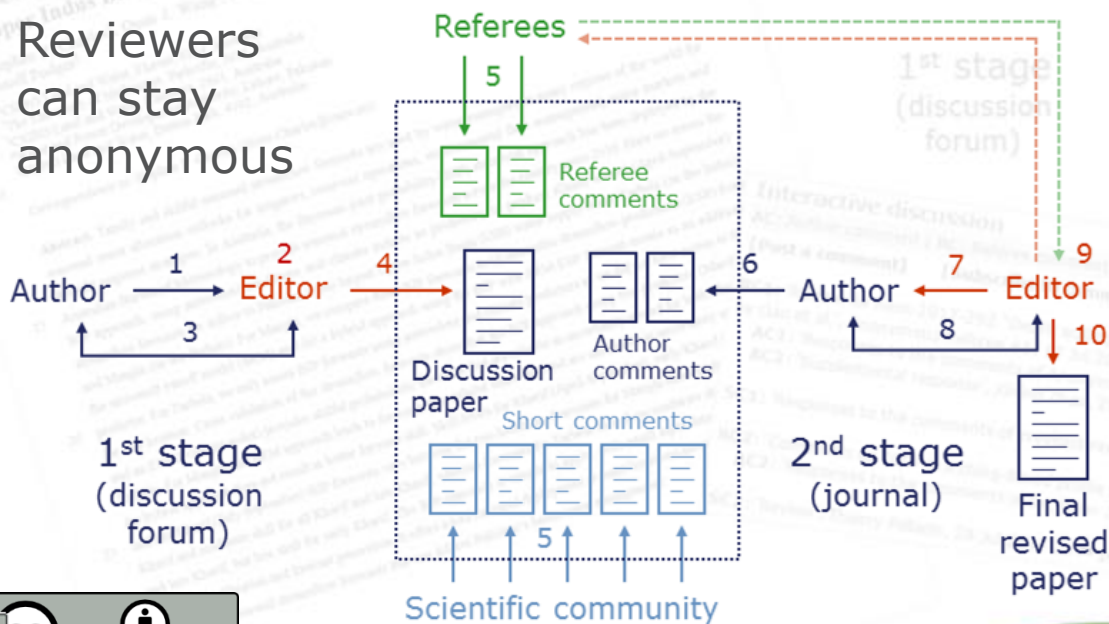
How we run OA journals

- Journals are owned by **scientific associations**
- Associations appoint chief editors; they appoint topical eds.
- Editors **are not paid** & are not employed by Copernicus
- Articles are published **CC BY 4.0** with author's copyright
- All-in: full-text XML & HTML, MathML, PDF
- CrossRef, CrossCheck, COPE, CLOCKSS, Portico, WoS
- Take home: **journals are owned by associations, articles are owned by authors**



Quality assurance through open peer review

Reviewers can stay anonymous



Access to **reviewer** reports & **author's** replies – comment **yourself**



What are the costs & services?

- All **services in-house**: editorial support, typesetting, image processing, and language copy-editing
- All review & publishing tools developed in-house
- No dependencies, **no outsourcing**
- Licence model: APCs for authors, fixed allowance for us
- Surplus for journal owner = scientific association
- Average **APCs: €1,299 net** (1,545 gross) for 15 pages
- APCs calculated by page number, **10% free pages**

Who receives the APC income?

Last 12 months

64,000 pages

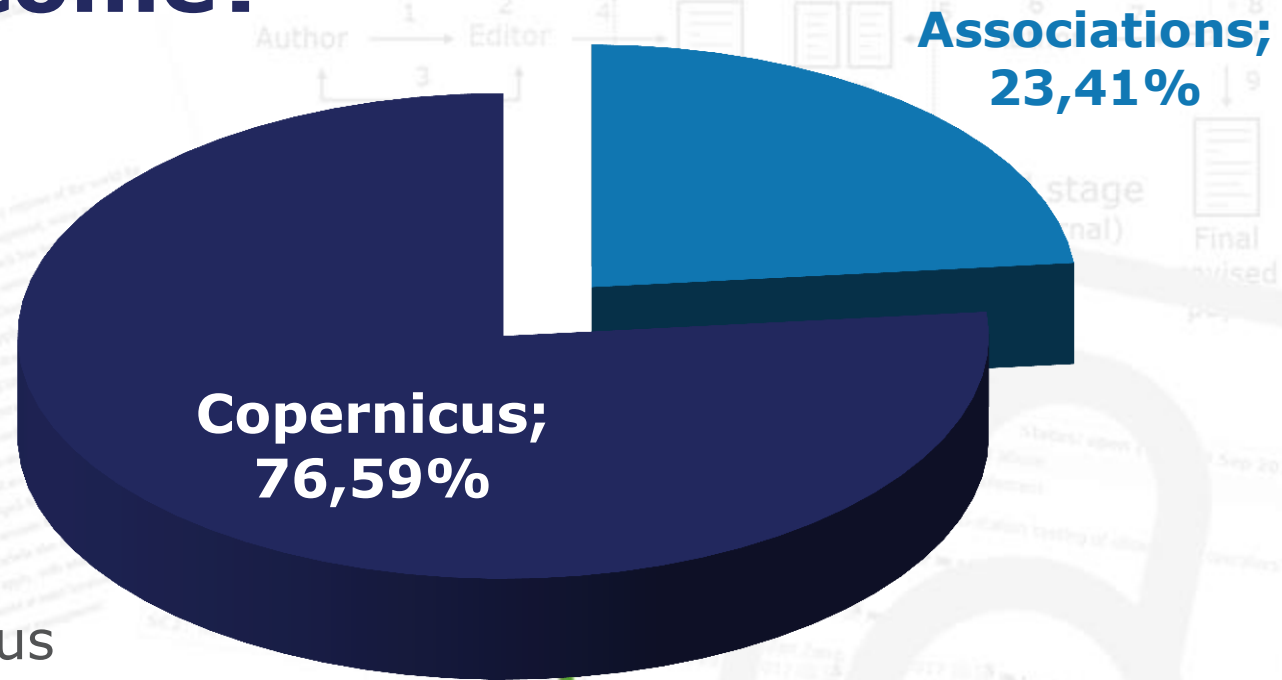
Turnover €5M

For assoc. €1.2M

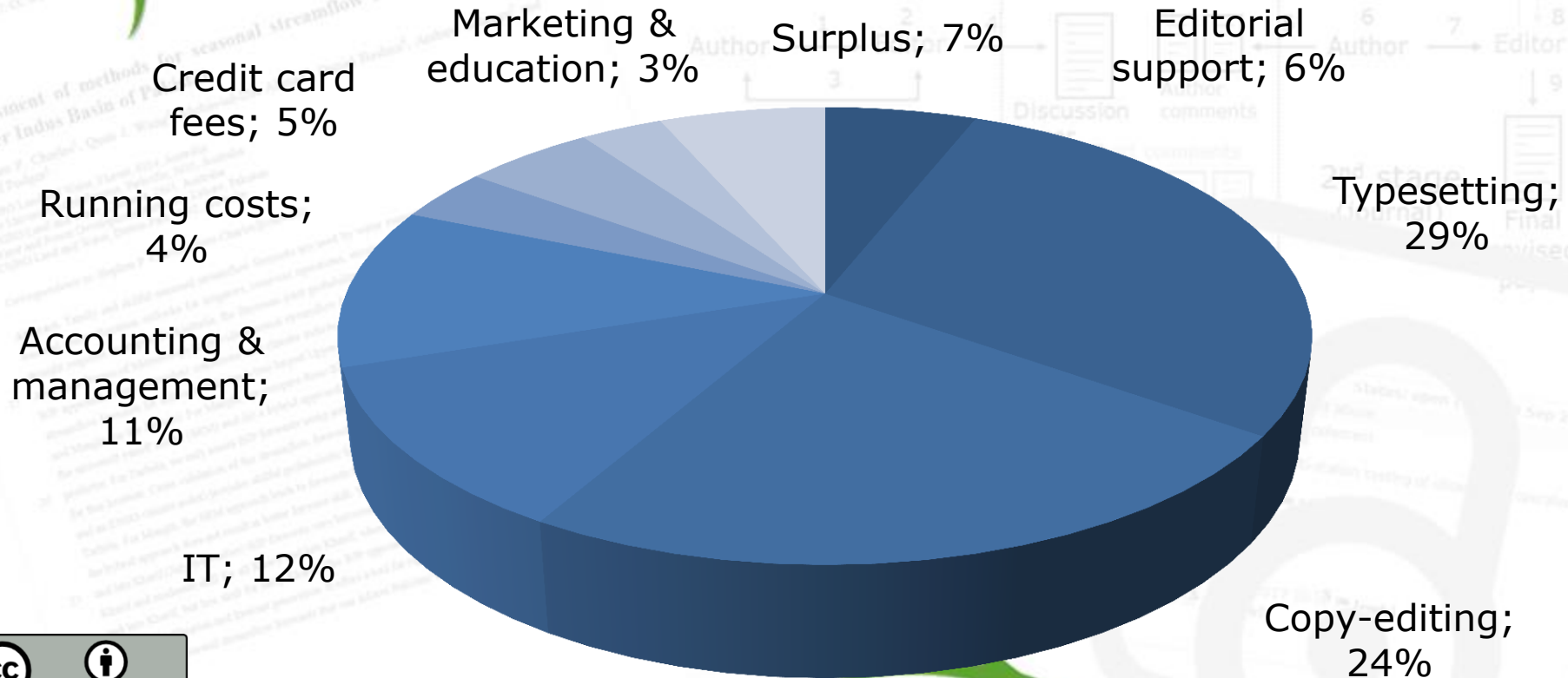
Scalability

If €2k/article

€2.5M extra surplus



What are our costs?



Real-cost summary & take-home message

Modern technology enables sustainable production of top quality scientific journals with substantial surplus for associations & publishers, even in a high-wage country, for **less than €2,000 per article**

Full OA paradigm

- **3 dimensions of OA publishing** for scientific traceability: **open articles**, **open assets** (data/software/videos), **open peer review** (enhance quality assurance & save reviewer capacities)
- **Proper OA market**: avoid monopolies/oligopolies, allow for alternative models & publishers
- **Society ownership**: € back to science (socio-economics)
- Start with DEAL etc., but don't forget the pure OA publishers
- Full OA = no more hybrid journals (see Plan S)



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Thank you. For your attention.

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