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SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING IN THE CONTEXT OF OPEN SCIENCE

Costs of Open Access

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BRODOGRADNJA/***SHIPBUILDING*** since 1950



International scientific peer reviewed open-access journal since 2005

Digital edition only since 2014

Theory and Practice of Naval Architecture Serving Shipbuilding, Shipping and Offshore Industry

Relatively small journal with not to big researchers basis in very specific field of engineering.

Specific problems of engineering journals among pure scientific journals.

Published quarterly by University of Zagreb

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture of the, Croatia



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Indexing of Broogradnja

Web of Sciences (WoS) Core Collection since 2008



Scopus (Elsevier) – since 1994



Central & Eastern European Academic Source Database Coverage List since 2005

EBSCO *host*

Some other professional data basis.

Information about Brodogradnja

Archiving policy Sherpa/ROMEo green since 2015



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Journal Brodogradnja has been added to DOAJ since 2015





This exposé is motivated by editorial troubles (**our trouble**) in decision whether or not to introduce 'author-pay' article charge.

(Many journals face this temptation?)

The problem arose when funding of a journal become insufficient for covering all costs.

(Funding Croatian journals by Ministry of sciences and academic institutions?)

The challenge posed in the exposé is how to assure sustainable conditions for OA leaving authors, reviewers and editors to do their jobs creatively out of business.

(Is there anything today out of business?)

Open discussion among Croatian editors

Whether or not Submission or Publishing fee?

0 Zbornika radova Ekonomskog fakulteta u Rijeci (Editor Ivo Sever started the discussion 22.07.2015)

1 Medijska istraživanja/Media research

2 Croatian Journal of Forest Engineering

Think about

3 Hrvatski meteoroloski casopis

4 Natura Croatica

5 Acta stomatologica Croatica

6 Central European Agriculture (JCEA)

7 Osječki zbornik Muzeja Slavonije Osijek

8 Entomologia Croatica

9 Acta Dermatovenerologica Croatica

10 Organization, Technology & Management in Construction: An International Journal

Think about

11 Trziste/Market

12 Prostor

Require article charge

13 Psihologijske teme

14 Hrvatski šumarski institute RADOVI I SEEFOR

15 Acta stomatologica Croatica

16 Biochemia Medica

17 Psychiatria Danubina

18 Brodogradnja

18 *Strojarstvo*

Think about

Rise of OA

Many publishers and editorial boards of old and particularly of newly started journals inspired by [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#) [1] in 1990th initiated the transition from printed issues to additional or solely digital versions of OA journals.

The prevailing motivation for transition could be in the **steady rise of OA worldwide**, **reduction of costs** and the belief that the OA journals have **greater visibility and impact** (see '[The rise of open access](#)' [2]).

However, there are **subjective motives** of those who are fully devoted to defence of OA to publically funded information following the (see 'The Hacker Ethic and the Spirit of the Information Age' [3]).

(Isn't an amazing spread of OA publishing idea?)

Rise of publication fee practice

Many OA journals introduced recently publication fees. The great differences in amount of fees between several hundreds and several thousands of Euros (see 'Price of prestige' [2]) left certain questions of the role and meaning of article charging.

Possible explanations for article charges could be:

- Covering the OA costs
- Earn extra profits and/or invest to OA infrastructure development
- Covering the loss of earning on highly visible OA articles with respect to commercially available but more expensive printed editions (Hybrid).

(It wasn't unexpected?)

Provoking questions

Richard Van Noorden:

Cheap open-access journals raise questions about the value publishers add for their money.

Michael Eisen:

The biggest travesty is that the scientific community carries out peer review — a major part of scholarly publishing — for free, yet subscription-journal publishers charge billions of dollars per year.

Publishers:

Insist that such views are misguided — born of a failure to appreciate the value they add to the papers they publish, and to the research community as a whole. It would undermine important values such as editorial quality.

(The conflicting views on the same problem are normal?)

The costs and revenues of publishing

The science-publishing industry generated \$9.4 billion in revenue in 2011 and published around 1.8 million English-language articles — an average revenue per article of roughly \$5000.

Analysts estimate profit margins at 20–30% for the industry, so the average cost to the publisher of producing an article is likely to be around \$3500–4000.

The largest open-access publishers charge \$1350–2250 to publish peer-reviewed articles in many of their journals, although their most selective offerings charge \$2700–2900 or even more.

Looking at 100697 articles published in 1370 fee-charging open-access journals active in 2010 (about 40% of the fully open-access articles in that year) charges ranged from \$8 to \$3900.

Higher charges tend to be found in **'hybrid' journals**, in which publishers offer to make individual articles free in a publication that is otherwise paywalled (see 'Price of prestige').

Outsell estimates that the average per-article charge for open-access publishers in 2011 was \$660.

Open access for nothing-utopia or reality?

Frequently, small open-access publishers are also subsidized, with governments, universities or societies covering the costs of server hosting, computers, salaries of the editorial staff and building space.

That explains why many journals say that they can offer

open access for nothing

Different views of underdeveloped, developing and developed societies and countries?

Different views of authors, reviewers, editors, users, publishers and supporters.

Balancing efforts and costs among participants of OA

Publishers administer the peer-review process, which includes activities such as finding peer reviewers, evaluating the assessments and checking manuscripts for plagiarism.

They may edit the articles, which includes proofreading, typesetting, adding graphics, turning the file into standard formats such as PDF, XML and adding metadata to agreed industry standards.

(Who is in general responsible (who pays) and who works (voluntarily or payed) for language and other editings?)

Michael Eisen's Claim: "The costs of research publishing can be much lower than people think" ?

(We would like it!)

Balancing costs and benefits among participants of OA

The key question is whether the extra publishing effort adds useful value, says Timothy Gowers, a mathematician at the University of Cambridge, UK

Many researchers in fields such as mathematics, physics and computer science do not think it is.

The post pre- and post-reviewed versions of their work on servers such as **arXiv**

— an operation that costs some \$800,000 a year to keep going, or about \$10 per article.

(It is already clear that there is no ideal solution or all participants in OA publishing?)

Balancing costs among participants of OA and Prestige and Impact

A more-expensive, more-selective journal should, in principle, generate greater prestige and impact. !?

(What is the importance of prestige and impact? Objective or subjective category?)

Jevin West argues: in the open-access world, the higher-charging journals don't reliably command the greatest citation-based influence.

(Relativity of selection and decision acceptance/rejection criteria? More responsibilities for authors?)

Eisen added: the idea that research is filtered into branded journals before it is published is not a feature but a bug: a wasteful hangover from the days of print.

He also suggests, research could be filtered after publication using metrics such as **number of visits, views, downloads and citations**, which focus not on the journal, but on the article.

(Researchers look for articles not for journals?)

This idea is developing, for example through the RESEARCHGATE approach!

Alicia Wise, from Elsevier doubts: Brands, and accompanying filters, that publishers create by selective peer review add real value, and would be missed if removed entirely.

(Reality imposes coexistence of different ideas and needs?)

The path to open access is unstoppable

A total conversion to OA will be slow in coming, because scientists still have every economic incentive to submit their papers to high-prestige subscription journals.

The subscriptions tend to be paid for by libraries, and few individual scientists see the costs directly. From the researcher's perspective publication is effectively free.

Many researchers and the public in general have been swayed by the ethical argument, made so forcefully by open-access advocates, that publicly funded research should be freely available to everyone.

The fundamental force driving the speed of the move towards full open access is what researchers — and research funders — want.

Eisen said: I didn't expect publishers to give up their profits, but my frustration lies primarily with leaders of the science community for not recognizing that open access is a perfectly viable way to do publishing.

Alternatives

There should be other models of article charging in OA than 'author-pay'.

The governmental and academic/research institutions with companies supporting scientific research having common interests in knowledge dissemination should jointly support, maintain and develop the necessary ITC infrastructure (But why?) leaving authors, reviewers and editors to do their jobs. (But why?)

(Motivations for supporting ranking in sciences – competition - like in sports?)

Balancing efforts and costs shortcomings and benefits among participants of OA

The distribution of efforts and costs among authors, reviewers, editors and publishers has to preserve and enhance the scientific enthusiasm and creative motivation for research.

Are authors appropriately payed through funding? Promotion and carrier? Self-motivation? Curiosity or carrier driven research?

Reviewers have the privilege of being first informed about new research?

Reviews may be conditions for promotion? Reviews are obligation? Payed or not?)

High appreciation of editorial efforts? Volunteers or professionals? Academic promotion for editorial work?

Prestige of publishers? Responsibility for infrastructure? Responsibility for quality control and income?

Universities, publishers, repository holders, governments, supporting institutions, donors and the general public have to think on stimulating and sustainable OA conditions.

Ranking in local, international and global evaluation systems?

Knowledge dissemination global strategic interest? Serving industry?

In this delicate and sensitive relation of efforts, costs and expenses of OA publishing a fair and ethical cost-benefit balancing of financial and social aspects of research and knowledge dissemination is needed for achieving maximal efficiency and rightness.

There is no unified solution for every one and for all circumstances

Our view in our situation (journal Brodogradnja)

Continue subsidizing open-access publishers with governments, universities or societies covering the costs of server hosting, computers, building space and salaries of the profession staff where needed.

Large extent of voluntary work of the editorial staff and free reviewing

So that we can say that we can offer

open access free of charge

(Our choice that needs proof of sustainability)