

In Brief

John Benjamins Publishing Company started offering Read & Publish agreements for journal articles four years ago, on the basis of the Smooth Transition Model developed by Nina Schönfelder (University of Bielefeld; <https://tinyurl.com/azk35npa>).

This has already resulted in an increase in Open Access journal articles from 3% to 30% on a yearly basis.

We have now adapted this Read & Publish model to offer it for articles in book volumes; we are gaining experience with a first customer, KU Leuven Libraries, for this new initiative.

This poster highlights

- how we use the Smooth Transition model for journal articles,
- how we adapted the model for articles in books, and
- why we believe such a R&P model can support a further migration towards open access publishing for books.

Background

John Benjamins Publishing Company:

- Independent, family-owned academic publisher
- Focus on linguistics and related fields
- 87 Journals, mostly small and highly-specialized
- 80 -100 New books per year

The Challenge

In the field of Linguistics resources for funding Open Access are scarce.

Before 2021 few of our journal articles were made Open Access through payment of an APC.

Although we publish a fair number of journals, most of those are relatively low-volume and very specialised. The number of OA articles per year and per journal fluctuates considerably.

As a specialised publishing company we have limited resources for negotiating complex “big deals”; we need a simple solution for OA migration, integrated in existing workflows.

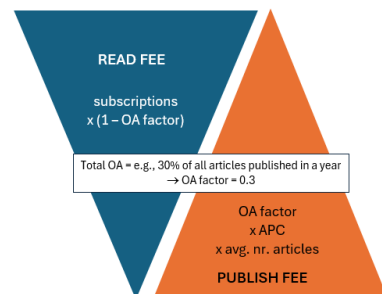
Since 2021 we have been offering a transformative model for journal articles, that works within those constraints.

For books a small share of the yearly list is published Open Access through BPCs. For entire volumes — single-authored monographs and edited collections — funding can often be found.

For individual articles in edited collections, that are not OA in their entirety as a book, there is a clear need in the community we serve for the migration towards Open Access.

The Solution for Journals

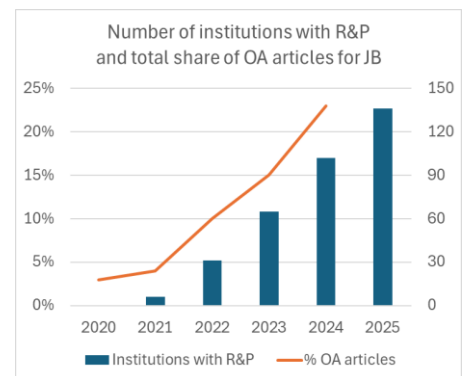
The model is based on a single, transparent calculation that balances the subscription fees, APCs, and an offset for the total amount of Open Access journal articles, to establish a gradual shift.



Further specifics of the Journals Read & Publish model:

- a single formula, based on transparent data
- within the annual subscription renewal process
- flexibility on choice of journals to subscribe
- for publication in any JB journal, not limited to subscribed
- no cap on Open Access articles per year
- no double payments due to built-in offset
- 5-year rolling average of articles/year mitigates risk

See also <https://tinyurl.com/yc2s2nm> (UKSG 2022)



The Solution adapted for Books

Read & Publish model for articles in books adapted from the Journals model:

- Read fee based on purchase of the Frontlist E-book Collection upcoming year with an off-set applied to the price
- Publish fee calculated on the basis of
 - average number of articles in Contributed Volumes published in the previous five years by corresponding authors from the institution,
 - Book Article Processing Charge and
 - an Open Access factor offset
- Read & Publish fee calculation and data are provided on request to institutions annually for their review.

Further specifics of the Book Article Read & Publish model:

- Transparent, single formula for all customers
- within the annual subscription renewal process
- perpetual access to coming year’s Frontlist E-book Collection
- no cap on Open Access articles per year
- no double payments due to built-in offset
- 5-year rolling average of articles/year mitigates risk

Experience and next steps

KU Leuven Libraries started using this model in 2024. This has enabled all their contributing authors to publish their book articles Open Access.

It has allowed us to consider aspects of the workflow and reporting that needed to be put into place.

We are now pleased to offer this model also other institutions, who want to support their authors making book articles Open Access.

How this supports OA migration

As the share of Open Access articles of John Benjamins publications increases, as result from more institutions joining this model, the Read fee goes down to 0% and the Publish fee goes to 100% Open Access. We invite interested institutions to join in order to get to 100% Open Access.

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