



George Mason University Libraries
Open Access Publishing Fund Guidelines
August 2013

The University Libraries offers financial support to eligible members of the Mason community to off-set the costs of publishing in scholarly open access (OA) journals that charge author fees. Complete and submit the [Open Access Publishing Fund \(OAP Fund\) application](#) on the University Libraries' website to apply for funds. *Please read the following journal eligibility requirements before applying.* Contact Claudia Holland (chollan3@gmu.edu) with any questions.

Most OA publications do not require payment because the host institution or a society absorbs the burden of cost. However, one OA business model currently practiced transfers the costs of publication from the end-user or an intermediary (i.e., the subscription model) to the producer (i.e., author). In this model, access to online articles is free of pay barriers, hence its label as “open access” content.¹ Users may print-out or electronically share these articles without payment and with no restriction.

Toward this end, the Open Access Publishing Fund at Mason supports four broad goals:

1. To encourage publication in scholarly open access journals.
2. To reduce financial barriers to scholarly research,
3. To disseminate scholarship produced at George Mason University as widely and immediately as possible, and
4. To foster research and artistic collaboration among and between scholars at Mason and throughout the world.

Fund Details and Guidelines

For the current fiscal year (2013-2014), the University Libraries has established a fund of \$25,000. Monies will be used to underwrite some or all of the article processing fees (APF) charged by reputable open access publishers (defined below).

Individuals eligible to apply for publisher payment of an APF may receive up to \$3,000 per fiscal year, with a \$3,000 cap per article. Financial support will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Funds are not distributed according to an individual's affiliation with a particular school, college, or department. Nor is it the intention of this fund to endorse specific OA publishers or publications.

Journal eligibility

Criteria used to select an OA journal in which to publish mimics those to choose a traditional, subscription-based journal. That is, research the journal's review process, reputation in the discipline, impact factor (or similar metric), and acceptance rate. In addition to the appropriateness of the subject content, these criteria may have bearing on the decision to submit to a particular journal.

Requirements must be met by a journal for an individual to apply for OAP funds. The journal must:

- Be listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org),

Alternative Funding

Faculty members who receive grants from sources that allow funds to be allocated for open access publication are asked not to apply to the OAP Fund. Researchers receiving support from the National Institutes of Health, the Wellcome Trust, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, among others, are permitted to use grant monies to underwrite open access publication of their findings. Contact Claudia Holland (chollan3@gmu.edu) or Mason's Office of Sponsored Research for assistance, as needed.

OA publishing subsidies may be available through discretionary departmental or college/school funds, as well. Monies from the OAP Fund may be combined with those from a department, college, or school, or personal funds.

Attribution Requirement

Authors who receive support, please include this statement in your acknowledgements: *Publication of this article was funded in part by the George Mason University Libraries Open Access Publishing Fund.*

MARS Submittal Requirement

Authors who are supported by the OAP Fund are expected to deposit a post-review, final draft of the article (or publisher approved version) in Mason's digital repository, Mason Archival Repository Service (MARS), upon receipt of funding notification.

1. "Open access," as defined in the [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#), means "free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited."