Information for publishers about the Open Access Community Framework

Introduction

We have developed the open access community framework (OACF) to provide an efficient way for publishers offering innovative open access (OA) content models to seek financial support from our institutional members. The OACF also reflects interest from our members in supporting a more diverse range of OA content providers and initiatives and aligns with our view that diversity is at the core of a well-functioning scholarly communication market. By presenting options via the framework the OACF helps institutions make strategic decisions about the use of their funds, e.g., OA or collections budgets, towards new content initiatives. We are piloting the OACF during 2022.

What is the open access community framework (OACF)?
The OACF is a mechanism by which we present various options to support innovative OA community-based initiatives to our members. Each option included in the OACF has been reviewed by Jisc against criteria set by the sector.

How does the OACF work?
We will issue a call for participants in the OACF once a year. Evaluation of the 2022 pilot will determine the optimum time for this to happen (for 2022 the call for participants occurred in February).

Publishers wishing to take part will provide a funding target and are required to make a case for funding by completing the evaluation form and including the required cost transparency information. Publishers will also be asked to review Jisc’s model participation agreement template and mark up any comments and/or proposed changes, and to include the marked-up version in the submission. We will review all submissions and for approved publishers will work with publishers to distribute the funding target across Jisc bands to ensure pricing points that enable participation from the widest range of institutions.

Details of approved initiatives will be shared with the Jisc community via our online catalogue, Licence subscriptions manager. Funding pledges will be for the full 3-year term to provide financial stability for participating publishers/initiatives. The funding window for 2022 will remain open from April to October.

N.B. Participation in the OACF does not guarantee that the funding target will be achieved but publishers will receive all funds pledged through the OACF.

What are the benefits of the OACF?
Key benefits for publishers include:

- Predictable funding for a fixed period
- Increased awareness of journal/initiative
- Efficient way to reach Jisc community members
- Invoicing via Jisc (optional)
Key benefits for institutions include:

- Defined funding request schedule for new OA initiatives
- Provision of standardised evaluation criteria responses
- Pricing allocated to Jisc bands
- Standardised participation agreement

**What are the evaluation criteria?**
The evaluation criteria can be found in the submission form on the Jisc website.

**Who can apply to take part in the OACF?**
Not-for-profit publishers offering OA content models based on supporter membership fees instead of charging subscriptions or publishing fees can apply to be part of the OACF. N.B. Publishers operating community-based OA models that have an active agreement with Jisc do not need to apply to take part in the OACF for 2022.

**What happens after offers are submitted?**
The following timeline applies to the 2022 OACF pilot.

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| April   | We review submissions after submission deadline and informs publishers if their submission has been approved  
Our licensing specialist works with approved publishers to prepare participation contract (which publishers can use globally in other agreements)  
We prepare catalogue pages in Licence subscriptions manager (our online ordering system)  
We announce OACF participants to Jisc HE and Research members |
| October | Deadline reminders sent  
We announce outcome of OACF pilot during Open Access Week |

**Can I promote my offer directly to libraries?**
Yes, where feasible we encourage direct promotion, but all orders must be placed via Jisc’s Licensing subscriptions manager.

**What if my target isn’t reached?**
We cannot guarantee that targets will be reached as all our agreements operate on an ‘opt in’ basis. Any order placed represents a firm commitment from an institution to pay the pledge amount.

**Can my proposal be used globally?**
We work for UK institutions so we cannot offer your agreement to institutions overseas unless it’s via a UK institution, e.g., via a UK partnership. We encourage publishers to apply the same offer structure to other consortia or countries and expect transparency on support received from other consortia or countries in annual reports.

**Is there a fee to participate in the OACF?**
No, we do not charge for participation in the OACF.
Is there an accepted way of calculating the target amount?
Your target amount should be based on the total cost of publishing activities (plus a percentage for reinvestment) divided by the widest possible number of global supporting institutions. For approved publishers, we will distribute the target amount according to Jisc bands.

What is meant by transparent pricing?
To inform evaluation of publisher offers we, on behalf of libraries and consortia, require transparency on prices and services. The Plan S price transparency requirements are the emerging standard in this area, and publishers must provide full costings using either of the templates approved by cOAlition S as part of the submission, completing all fields relevant to their own business model. We ask that you also commit to giving this information to cOAlition S and share your costing breakdown on your own website.

Can I amend the model licence?
When making your submission, please mark up any amendments required in the model licence. As our model licences are known and trusted by institutions, please keep amendments to a minimum. To ensure efficiencies in administering the OACF, when reviewing applications to participate in the OACF, priority will be given publishers that accept the model licence with no amendments.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?
Please contact Helen Dobson with any further questions about participating in the OACF.