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# The Challenges of Centrally Funded OA for Smaller Publishers

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# Disclaimer

# OA Offsetting Deals



# Recent Offsetting Deals

- In the UK, Jisc Collections has reached agreements with Wiley, Taylor and Francis, IOP Publishing, SAGE Publishing, and Springer Nature
- In Austria, several offsetting models are already in place with Taylor and Francis, IOP Publishing, and Springer Nature
- The VSNU, Association of universities in the Netherlands, came to an agreement with Wiley, Springer Nature, and Elsevier



# OA2020

**“We aim to transform a majority of today’s scholarly journals from subscription to OA publishing in accordance with community-specific publication preferences. At the same time, we continue to support new and improved forms of OA publishing.”**

**“We will pursue this transformation process by converting resources currently spent on journal subscriptions into funds to support sustainable OA business models. Accordingly, we intend to re-organize the underlying cash flows, to establish transparency with regard to costs and potential savings, and to adopt mechanisms to avoid undue publication barriers.”**

# How OA Funds are Currently Being Spent

- In 2016, only 27% of institutional OA funds in the UK went to paying for APCs in fully OA journals, with the rest going to hybrid titles
- “This revenue does not include APCs that were paid for from offset deals, where the amount of the APC is unknown or unclear”
- “The top 10 publishers make up 77% of the market, with the remaining 525 publishers capturing the rest of the long tail.” Remember- these numbers do not include money spent via offsetting deals.



# Why is this a Problem?



It Makes Fully OA Titles Less  
Attractive than Hybrid  
Journals for Many Authors



# Why is that a Problem?



# The Problems of Hybrid OA

- In this same JISC study it was reported that the median APC in fully OA titles was £1261 while the median APC in hybrid journals was over £2000. A Wellcome Trust report in 2015 showed a similar cost difference between fully OA journals and hybrid journals.
- Payments for hybrid OA, particularly as part of offsetting deals, provide very limited transparency with regard to costs
- Compliance, reporting, and identification of OA content is far more difficult for hybrid journals than for fully OA titles
- Hybrid and offsetting deals further entrench the power of the largest publishing companies

<https://scholarlycommunications.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2017/08/23/article-processing-charges-in-2016/>

<https://blog.wellcome.ac.uk/2015/03/03/the-reckoning-an-analysis-of-wellcome-trust-open-access-spend-2013-14/>

# What is the Solution?



# Potential Solutions

- **Institutional/country-level support for fully OA journals**
- **Greater transparency within centralized OA deals to demonstrate the value of fully OA titles versus hybrid titles**
- **Institutional funds made available (and known to authors) to support publication charges where no centralized deal is in place**
- **No more offsetting deals?**
- **No more support hybrid?**



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# Thank you!

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