

# Contact and Partner with an Open Access Research Journal to Create Our Own Research Journal

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	Title:	Contact and Partner with an Open Access Research Journal to Create Ledgerbacks' own Research Journal
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## Abstract

A proposal to add establish an open access research journal at the enterprise governance level of Ledgerback.

## Motivation

- To fully establish Ledgerback as an independent research institution
- To aid Ledgerback in the grant funding process
- Promote and acquire competent researchers to conduct their research at Ledgerback
- Attract more people to seek membership at Ledgerback

## Rationale

### Reason 1: Providing publishing and editorial services will promote Ledgerback

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<sup>1</sup> Acronym: Organization- Governance Level - YYYY - MMDD

Owning and running a research journal will require Ledgerback to properly staff and train members in research-related services, but the payout is extremely high because open access journals embody our values and the values of our constituency (members, customers, clients, partners, etc.), we can bring research from citizen researchers to the light of the greater research community, and we can collaborate with other researchers to publish theirs' and our own research in the journal.

Publishing and editorial services represent the bulk of research-related services that authors seek from open access research journals. Generally, these services are charged under the umbrella term, article processing charges/fees (APCs) (hereinafter "APC services").<sup>2</sup>



Figure 1. Open access APCs<sup>3</sup>

APCs cover the following services (which would also fall under publishing and editorial services):

- Editorial
- Technical
- Production
- Customer services
- Marketing (e.g. conference attendance).<sup>4</sup>

In comparing rates between traditional publishers and open access publishers, open access publishers are cheaper and can provide greater visibility.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 7, Engago Academy (2019).

<sup>3</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 7, Engago Academy (2019).

<sup>4</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 7, Engago Academy (2019).

<sup>5</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 12, Engago Academy (2019).



Figure 2.

Here, I believe that with appropriate staffing and training, Ledgerback can provide APC services to researchers in the decentralized and open alternatives space, especially those researchers who would be considered *citizen researchers*.<sup>6</sup> Citizen researchers are abound in the decentralized and open alternatives space, with major prominence in the blockchain industry. I believe that we can provide such individuals APC services at a below-average to average price and help their research reach the greater research community.

Other than citizen researchers, we can also provide APC services to *academic researchers*<sup>7</sup> and *industry researchers*.<sup>8</sup> Academic researchers can help grow the prestige of Ledgerback by submitting their research to us, thereby showing that we are a legitimate and reputable research journal. Industry researchers can help Ledgerback work on Proof-of-Concept research and research that is at the cutting edge of their respective industry. Additionally, by connecting with industry researchers, Ledgerback will have a greater pulse on trends and movements in the decentralized and open alternative space. Lastly, researchers may join Ledgerback to help run the journal and to grow the literature in their area.

By accepting research from researchers, Ledgerback can also raise revenue from APC services, intellectual property licensing, events and conferences, and funding from third parties.

In conclusion, providing APC services will grow Ledgerback's appeal to researchers and provide a potential revenue source (APC services) to Ledgerback to run and maintain the research journal, with any excess funds sent to 1) the staff; and 2) Ledgerback Commons Fund.

<sup>6</sup> Defined Here As: *researchers who are not connected with any research institutions or companies in the relevant industries, and generally have no formal training in research methodology*

<sup>7</sup> Defined Here As: *researchers who are connected with a research institution, but may or may not be independent of them, and generally have formal training in research methodology*

<sup>8</sup> Defined Here As: *researchers who are connected with a company in a relevant industry, and generally have formal training in research methodology*

If Ethereum Classic is to succeed as a project, we need to take what we have learned from Bitcoin and move towards CPU-hard PoW algorithms.

## Reason 2: Encourage New Researchers to Join

New researchers will join Ledgerback to support Ledgerback's mission and to maintain and staff their member-owned research journal.

Researchers, as discussed in Reason 1, have an incentive to use Ledgerback's APC services. Additionally, researchers also have the option of becoming Ledgerback members if they so choose (membership package is not necessarily included here). By becoming members, Ledgerback, as a collective, gains new knowledge and experience that will help Ledgerback grow, and become part of Ledgerback's collective knowledge that may be extensible to other parts of Ledgerback's network.

Ledgerback via Charles Adjovu has recently gotten in contact with blockchain researchers and blockchain research organizations such as the blockchain research network. By creating a research journal that focuses on decentralized and open alternatives, we can also market to, and recruit from, the blockchain research network and grow our membership.

Lastly, researchers who join as members pay also purchase membership packages or purchase stock from the MetaCommunity, thus raising revenue for Ledgerback.

In conclusion, Ledgerback can recruit new researchers to support its mission and help run the research journal.

## Reason 3: Start the disruption process of research publishing services

In the research publishing industry, many researchers (academic, industry, and citizen) and librarians have spoken about the injustices of the publishing business and the need for disruption.<sup>9</sup>

The major research publishing firms, Spring, Elsevier, and Taylor & Francis, are owned by private equity firms who do not give a darn about the researchers who produce and consume (*prosume*) their product.<sup>10</sup>

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<https://medium.com/@jasonschmitt/can-t-disrupt-this-elsevier-and-the-25-2-billion-dollar-a-year-academic-publishing-business-aa3b9618d40a>

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Relevant Excerpt from Jason Schidmmt's *Can't Disrupt This: Elsevier and the 25.2 Billion Dollar A Year Academic Publishing Business*:

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"If you look at who owns Springer, these are private equity firms, and they have changed owners about five times in the last decade. Springer was owned by the investment group Candover and Cinven who describe themselves as 'Europe's largest buy-out firm.' These are companies who buy companies to decrease the cost and increase the profits and sell them again in two years. This is to whom we scholars are voluntarily handing our work. Are you going to trust them? This is not the public library of science. This is not your average author voluntarily contributing to the commons. These are people who are in business to make the most profit."

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Additionally, there is information asymmetry in the research publishing industry as researchers are generally unaware of the pricing costs of a research journal, and even of their own scholarly works because the value sought by researchers is non-monetary (prestige and approval from deans and committees).<sup>11</sup>

Enter the open access movement that has been making waves in the research publishing world.<sup>12</sup> Many, frustrated with the actions taken by the major research publishers, have blazed their own path such as Professor Rooryck and staff who took their journal, Linga, from Elsevier, to transition to their own open access research journal, Glossa.

Relevant Excerpt from Jason Schidmmt's *Can't Disrupt This: Elsevier and the 25.2 Billion Dollar A Year Academic Publishing Business*:

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"Rooryck found his recent very public decision to step down and move his Elsevier journal Linga to open access met with complete support from the other six editors and 31 editorial board members. "The process went very easily. We were all aware of the pricing and Elsevier's practices and within a week everyone agreed to resign," says Rooryck. Eve's platform, the Open Library of Humanities, will now house the new open access iteration of Lingua, which will be called Glossa. Eve says, "Right away it is 50% cheaper to run it through us then when it was with Elsevier. So anybody subscribing to it already sees 50% more revenue."

....

"Rooryck finds the move toward broad open access a natural progression and says, "The knowledge we produce as academics and scientists should be publicly available in the same way we have a company that delivers water to our faucets and electricity to our home. These are things we have a right to. Public knowledge and education is a human right and it should not come with a profit tag of 35%."

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<https://medium.com/@jasonschmitt/can-t-disrupt-this-elsevier-and-the-25-2-billion-dollar-a-year-academic-publishing-business-aa3b9618d40a>

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<https://medium.com/@jasonschmitt/can-t-disrupt-this-elsevier-and-the-25-2-billion-dollar-a-year-academic-publishing-business-aa3b9618d40a>

Additionally, the open access movement is moving full steam ahead, but is still in its infancy.<sup>13</sup> Engago Academy summarized the current market share for open access research journals, which is reproduced here for convenience:



Figure 3.<sup>14</sup>

The major issues in open access development are summarized as follows:

1. Perceived low quality of OA journals;
2. Variable APCs;
3. Academic Bias; and
4. Double Dipping.<sup>15</sup>

And summarized here are potential improvements to grow the open access journal market share:

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<sup>13</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 13, Engago Academy (2019).

<sup>14</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 13, Engago Academy (2019) ("Although market value for scholarly journals stands at \$10 billion, open access market accounts for \$500 million").

<sup>15</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 13, Engago Academy (2019).

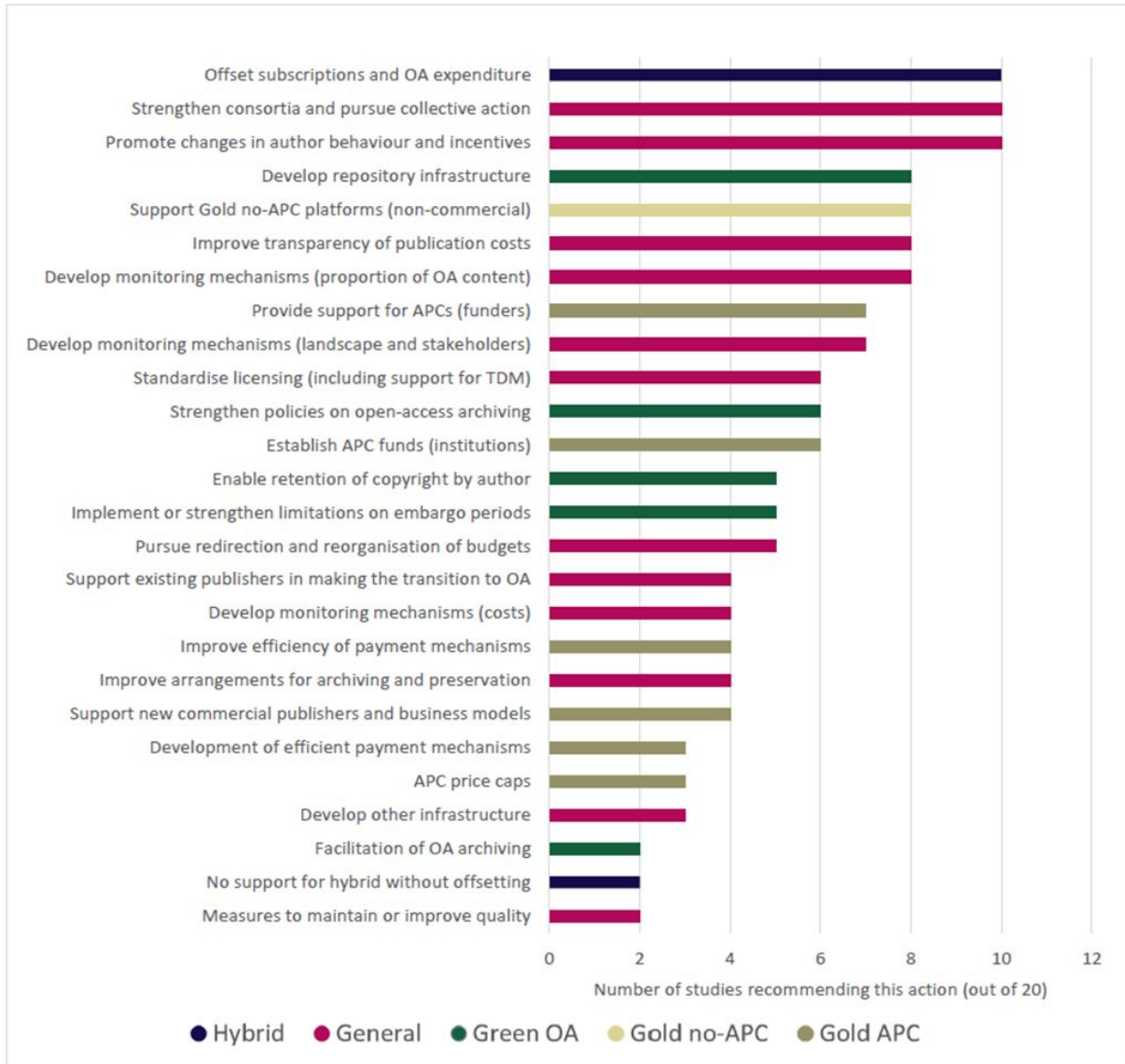


Figure 4.<sup>16</sup>

Here, we can pursue an open access journal model that supports the current disruption taking place in the research publishing industry for six primary reasons. First, Ledgerback embodies the same principles and values of the open access movement, which is inline with the values of most researchers. Second, the information asymmetry concerning the pricing of scholarly work, reputation of researchers and journals, and non-monetary compensation can be tackled by pursuing an innovative business model. Third, Ledgerback can tackle the growth issues for open access journals by implementing growth improvements<sup>17</sup> to the open access journal market. Fourth, there are many open access research journals and consortia groups who are willing to help Ledgerback establish an

<sup>16</sup> Engago Academy Team, Everything you need to know about Open Access 13, Engago Academy (2019).

<sup>17</sup> Many of these improvements can be readily implemented.

open access research journal. Fifth, Ledgerback's recent contact with the blockchain research network shows a positive sign that blockchain researchers are trying to coalesce together and creating a journal with them in mind should lead to the growth of the journal. Lastly, Ledgerback's existing cooperative model is applicable as a means of disrupting the research publishing industry by providing researchers, editors, and reviewers the option of running their own community-run journal without having to deal with administrative and compliance concerns, and work directly with *practitioners*<sup>18</sup> through Ledgerback's connected network.

In conclusion, the research publishing market is prime for disruptive innovation, and as researchers who work in decentralized and open alternatives, it is beneficial to us to support the open access movement and grow the open access market share. Additionally, the majority of our community base are supportive of open access and other open-related movements, and thus will attract potential members.

## Implementation

Work in Progress:

Ledgerback can partner with an Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) member who will provide mentoring, infrastructure, and/or other help to establish an open access research journal.<sup>19</sup>

The OASPA members who may be willing to help us are:

- Scholarly Exchange
- Ubiquity Press
- Taylor & Francis
- Open Book Publishers
- Frontiers
- Copernicus Publications

Full List<sup>20</sup>:

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- AOSIS (Pty) Ltd, trading as AOSIS OpenJournals
  - BMJ Group
  - Cambridge University Press
  - Copernicus Publications
  - ecancermedicalsociety
  - EDP Sciences
  - Frontiers
  - IOP Publishing
- 

<sup>18</sup> Defined Here As: *an individual, community, entity, network, whether decentralized or not, that is actively and meaningfully, or in the process of, applying decentralized and open alternatives into its operations at any level, or is actively and meaningfully supporting those who are.*

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.scholarlyexchange.org>

<sup>20</sup> <https://oaspa.org/information-resources/for-societies/>



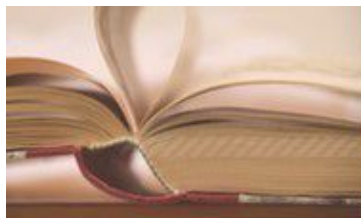
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- JMIR Publications Inc.
  - Leibniz-Institute for Psychology Information / PsychOpen
  - MDPI AG
  - Open Book Publishers
  - Oxford University Press
  - Pensoft Publishers
  - Portland Press Ltd
  - SAGE Publications
  - Scholarly Exchange
  - Springer Nature
  - Taylor & Francis
  - The Company of Biologists
  - Ubiquity Press Ltd
  - University Library System, University of Pittsburgh
  - Wiley
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Charles Adjovu will also need to work on certain documentation pertinent to open access research journals to be made available to the public, such as:

- Code of ethics
- APC policy
- Review policy
- Publishing Process
- Retraction Policy
- Copyright Policy
- Content Archive Policy
- Content Accessibility Policy
- Permanent ID policy
- Author ID policy
- Article Format Policy
- Self- [] Policies
- Data Sharing Policy
- Funding Disclosure Policy
- Sponsored Article Policy

Additional considerations are also needed for the following:

- Signing up with the Directory of Open Access Journals
- Open Access Journal Type
- How to implement Web3 Technologies in a research journal context



## OA JOURNAL TYPES

### MEGA JOURNALS

These are broad scope journals with objective peer-review. These are generally low-cost and high-volume.

*(PLOS ONE; BMJ Open; SAGE Open)*

### FLIPPED JOURNALS

These are the journals that converted from subscription to OA.

*(Nucleic Acids Research; Nature Communications; Stem Cell Research)*

### CASCADE JOURNALS

These journals are used as tests for OA strategy while protecting the main journals.

*(J Nutrition Science; Physiological Reports (Wiley/APS))*

### HYBRID JOURNALS

These subscription journals that can offer OA on article basis after payments of APCs.

Major biomedicine journals published by main publishers fall in this category.

### BROAD-SCOPE SELECTIVE JOURNALS

These are similar to megajournals, but use a traditional peer-review process for selecting articles.

*(Open Biology; Open Library of the Humanities)*

Figure 5.