

# 2020 Costs and Fee Schedule for OSF Preprint Services

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Thursday,  
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5:14 PM

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Colleagues --

The purpose of this email is to confirm the distributed cost model for 2020 for maintaining the OSF preprint services. COS and the preprints steering committee met yesterday to review and discuss the revisions to this compared to the original draft that we first circulated and discussed as a group in November 2018.

At the end of the call yesterday, we confirmed that the next step was to circulate this material to all preprint services and then start collecting information to see how we are doing collectively in fundraising and whether some services need help or to strategize together.

There are two tabs in the attached spreadsheet: [1] "Per Service" contains the final version of the fee schedule per service (light blue) and a comparison to the original version (light green), and [2] "COS Operating Costs" contains a breakdown of COS's operating costs for the preprints service. We are sharing this with you so that you can see the entire breakdown across all services.

Here is a summary for how to read these spreadsheets.

On the “Per Service” tab:

1. The Column most relevant to you is Column E. This is the 2020 fee for your preprint service. These values are determined by the number of papers posted to your service in a 12-month period starting July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019. Column I (blue section) shows the price tiers based on the number of new papers during that 12-month period. So, if your service had 85 new papers, then you fall into the first tier (0 to 100 papers) and the 2020 fee is \$999.
2. Column F, Row 29 shows the projected real costs for COS to operate the service in 2020 (explained below). That total is \$229,225. Based on the current fee structure, if every service contributes at their level it will generate \$116,974 (Column E, Row 29). The remainder of \$141,249 (Column G, Row 29) will be covered by COS. Overall, this means that this cost distribution plan has COS covering 61.6% of the costs and the services collectively covering 38.4% (Rows 32-34).
3. For historical purposes, you can compare all those numbers with the original proposal in Green (Columns B, C, and D). The changes are a consequence of clearer budgetary information and estimation of costs for 2020, and some changes to the fee schedule based on feedback from the steering committee. Specifically, one concern with the original fee schedule was that it had abrupt jumps between some of the tiers, so the new schedule breaks those apart to have a more gradual cost structure.

On the “COS Operating Costs” tab:

1. This spreadsheet documents COS’s real and projected costs for operating the preprints service infrastructure. Note that it does NOT account for costs accrued by the individual preprint services (e.g., the amount that your service pays for marketing).
2. Column H, Row 27 shows the same total cost as on the “Per Service” page. That is the forecasted total costs for COS for maintaining the preprint service infrastructure. The rows above that in Column H show the breakdown of those costs. For comparison, Columns E, F, and G show the data for 2019-- the original forecast (E), the actual costs from January through June (F), and the revised forecast for 2019 (G). As we agreed in 2018, all of these costs are being covered by COS’s fundraising efforts.

The other attachment shows the approach that we took to forecast the number of new papers that will appear across all services in 2020. This informs the cost forecast to some degree (Row 4 in the “COS Operating Costs” tab).

Based on feedback from individual services, we will offer quarterly and one-time annual payment options. We will also offer services the option of 1, 2 or 3 year agreements. For multi-year agreements, the fee schedule would not change during the term of the agreement. That is, if a service levels up to a next submission tier

their annual amount would change, but they would not experience any changes in the overall pricing schedule during those three years. This was based on feedback that a more dependable fee schedule would help some services with their fundraising efforts.

The next step is to assess the status of your service or organization's fundraising for the fee amount identified in Column F. For those that have met or are in the process of meeting those targets, that information will be helpful for assessing present standing. For those that have not yet identified viable funding, sharing your status will give us an opportunity to assist with identifying potential funding sources and for connecting services with similar interests/challenges to possibly collaborate.

We will next follow up with each service individually to answer any questions you have about these documents, and to collect information on your present funding status. After we get feedback from everyone, we can share the overall picture back to the whole group to help clarify our collective next steps.

Thanks much for all your work in promoting open scholarship!

Regards,

Nici, Lucy, Kevin, and Brian

P. S. We also started but did not have sufficient time for a discussion about next steps on preprints governance. We will follow up about that in a separate email.

Attached:

Preprint Costs 2019-2020

Forecasted 2020 Preprint Submissions

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