

Wellcome Trust APC spend (2012-13): an explanation of the data

Overview

In an attempt to make the debate around the costs of open access publishing more evidence based, the Wellcome Trust is releasing into the public domain details of its **open access spend** in the year 2012-2013, **as reported by UK institutions and the Trust's Major Overseas Programmes in receipt of an OA block grant** (see: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/Guides/WTX036803.htm>).

The data *only* include information when an APC was levied. If an author has self-archived a paper, or the publisher provides a gold OA service (but makes no charge), this information is not included in this dataset.

Equally, data are not included in cases where a researcher (based at an institution not in receipt of an OA block grant) received a supplement to their grant to cover OA publishing costs.

The dataset

The dataset contains the following elements:

PMC ID/PMID

To help the Trust identify whether a work is in PMC/Europe PMC, we ask institutions to cite the PMC ID (or the PubMed ID if a PMC ID is not known. This data is not always 100% accurate.

Publisher

This lists the name of the publisher, as reported by the institution. As we do not impose any name authority control on this field, you will see the same publisher listed in different ways. For example, OUP, Oxford University Press, and O.U.P.

Journal name

This lists the name of the journal (which published the Wellcome-funded work), as reported by the institution. Again, as we not impose any name authority control on this, you will see the same journal listed in different ways. For example, PNAS, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, P.N.A.S.

Article title

This is the title of the article, as reported by the institution.

Cost

The cost listed is the figure which the institution is claiming from the Wellcome Trust grant (to cover the OA publishing fee). These costs exclude any page or colour charges which the publisher may levy.

The cost quoted, includes VAT where applicable.

All costs have been converted into £ sterling.

As you look through the data you will see (for example) different prices cited for the same journal. When these differences are small, it can be assumed that this reflects fluctuations in currency prices. Where they are significant, then it should be assumed that other funders

have contributed to the cost of that APC, and the figure cited is the Wellcome contribution to that APC.

Comment

Notwithstanding the issues with the data (described above) we hope this this data will be of use to help better understand the cost of OA publishing.

Robert Kiley
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