RRU Library Open Access Publishing Fund

**Background and purpose of the Open Access Publishing Fund pilot:**

The future of scholarly publishing is in flux. A variety of strategies have been adopted by universities to stimulate change within the current paradigms of academic research in an effort to make academic research more openly accessible to the benefit of both the public and researchers alike. Open Access (OA) refers to free, immediate, online availability of research outputs with the rights to use these outputs fully\(^1\).

Many Canadian universities have demonstrated their support for open access publishing by creating Open Access Publishing Funds to support the efforts of university researchers to publish in open access journals. The Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) recently published a report\(^2\) that reviewed some of these funds and made practical recommendations for their administration. The authors of the report also note: “we believe that the trend to publish in [Gold OA] journals will increase”\(^3\).

The purpose of the RRU Open Access Publishing Fund pilot is to help promote openness in academic research within the RRU community of scholarship via an established and credible mechanism. The intentions of this pilot are:

- To encourage openness supporting publication in fully open access (aka gold) journals that charge Article Processing Charges (APCs); support authors in making the transition to OA publishing as a scholarly communication option
- To provide the Library with experience managing such a fund, and
- To contribute further evidence to the university community as to the outcomes of such open access strategies.

The Open Access Publishing Fund 17/18 pilot will support eligible RRU researchers who wish to publish in eligible fully Open Access (Gold OA) journals and who are required to pay an Article Processing Fee (APC) to do so and do not have other sources of funding that can be applied to these charges.

**Awards & Criteria**

- Funds will be awarded to cover Article Processing Charges (APCs) to a maximum of $2,500 CDN each
- Applications meeting applicant and publication eligibility criteria will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funds are available
- Fund recipients must submit the invoice for an article processing charge to the Library for payment. The Library cannot reimburse fees which the researcher has already paid
- Final invoices for published articles must be received within four months of approval
- Must confirm status of grant funds that could cover APCs before drawing on the pilot OA Fund
- The article must be the result of research completed as part of their work at RRU
- Affiliation with RRU must be included in the published article
- Allow the Library to deposit their published article in RRU’s research repository

**Eligible applicants**

If the submitting author is not an eligible RRU author at the time of submission the fund cannot be used.

The RRU author must be the main author and must be an eligible RRU author:

- Current core faculty, full time staff, and graduate students working under the supervision of a faculty member are eligible. The article must be submitted while the author’s RRU affiliation is current.
Graduate students who have recently graduated will be eligible to use the fund for articles submitted up to one year after their graduation date.

Applicants are encouraged to exhaust other funding sources that can be used to pay for open access fees before applying to the Fund. If an alternate funding source is available that permits payment of submission fees, this source must be used before applying to the fund.

Eligible publications

- This Fund covers only fees associated with open access publishing and does not cover additional charges beyond the basic APC, such as those charged for including colour plates, longer articles, submission fees, or excess page charges.
- The Fund can only be used to pay APCs in fully OA journals (aka Gold journals). That is, in which ALL of the journal content is freely available online immediately to the reader and includes download and reuse rights.
- Eligible journals will be those listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

For the duration of the pilot, only articles to be published in reputable Gold OA journals will be considered for APC payment.

Ineligible publications

- Hybrid journals: subscription-based publications for which authors can pay an “open choice” fee to make their individual papers freely available to any reader. Although publishers claim to redirect the funds from these APCs to reduce the cost of subscriptions and licenses, there is insufficient evidence that this is actually happening.
- Journals with embargoes limiting Open Access content for a specific time period after publication
- Journals which require researchers to sign over copyright to their work

More information

Please contact:
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3 Ibid, p.9.