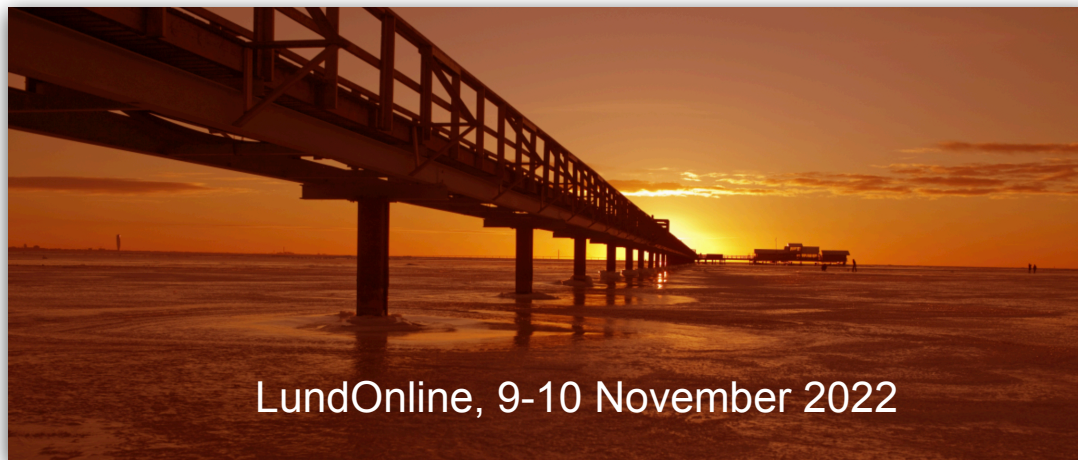




# SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN (S2O)

## LIBRARIAN'S VIEW ON A COLLABORATIVE OA MODEL



LundOnline, 9-10 November 2022

**Uta Grothkopf**

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European Southern Observatory (ESO)

# WORK CULTURE IN ASTRONOMY



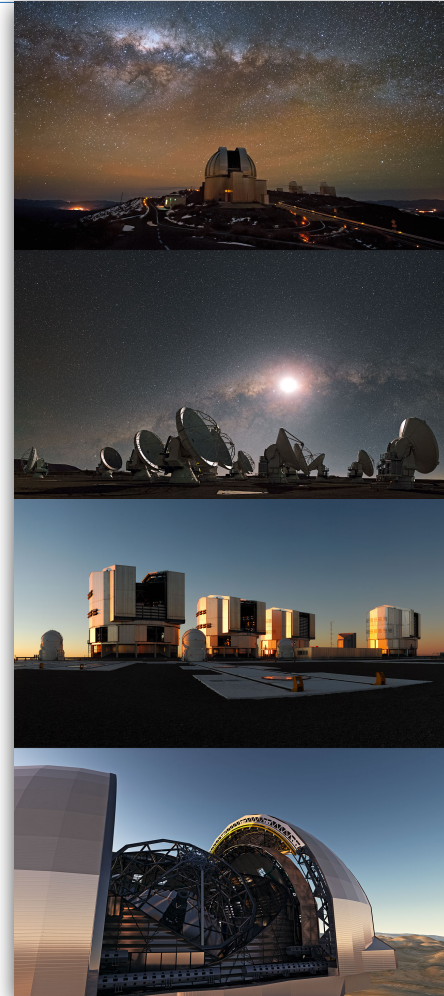
Observatories typically in **remote places**



Community (researchers and librarians)  
**closely connected**



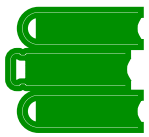
Tradition of **sharing and exchange**  
(papers, data, code...)



# READ ACCESS IN ASTRONOMY



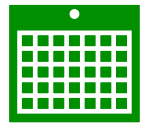
Wide-spread use of **Green OA** (arXiv/astro-ph eprint server)



Core journals digitised and **freely available back to vol. 1**



Publishers provide **temporary access** to selected recent articles



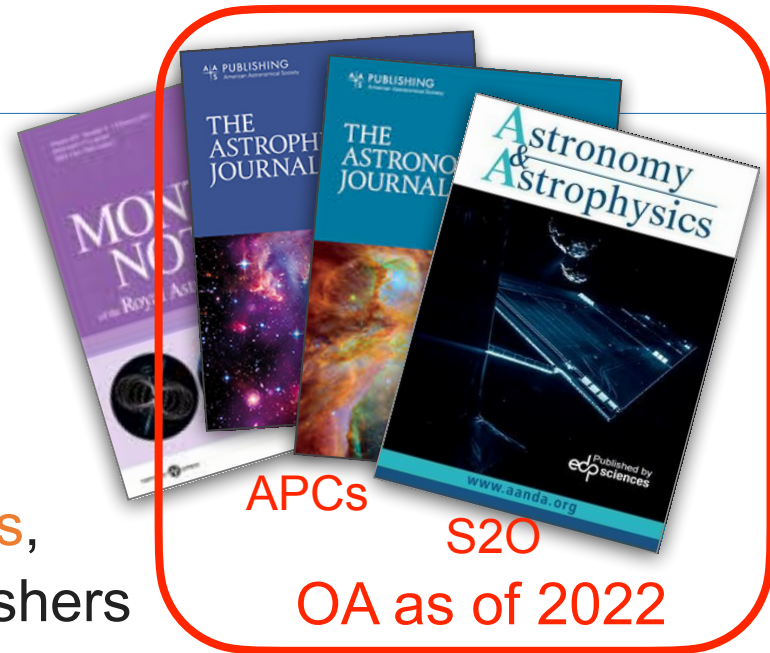
Free access to core journal content often **one year after publication**

# CORE JOURNALS



## Four “essential” journals

- > 35% of refereed astronomy literature
- ESO 1st-author refereed papers: 90+% in core journals



Governed by **Learned Societies**, published by commercial publishers

- ApJ / AJ — American Astronomical Society (AAS) / IOP Publishing
- MNRAS — Royal Astronomical Society (RAS) / Oxford Univ. Press
- A&A — European Southern Observatory (ESO) / EDP Sciences



## Community of researchers

- strongly influences publishing developments, but
- many astronomers don't see need for OA beyond status-quo
- need OA solutions with **minimal researcher burden**

# PUBLICATION BUSINESS MODELS

<https://doi.org/10.18727/docs/10>

Status	Model	Who pays?	How much?	Who can read?	Who can publish?	Plan S compliant?	Costs? (*)
Closed	Subscription (incl. hybrid journals)	Libraries	Too much	Scientists at subscribing institutions	Everyone	No	
	Subscription + Self-Archiving using Rights Retention (e.g., AAAS Science Magazine)	Libraries	Too much	Everyone (Author Accepted Manuscript, AAM)	Everyone	Yes	 Costs of journal subscription
Gold OA (APCs)	Commercial and society publishers	Authors	Depends on publisher	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	
	Overlay journals e.g., The Open Journal of Astrophysics	Authors	Very little	Everyone	Paying authors	Yes	
Transformative Agreements (max. 3 yrs.)	Read-and-Publish (RAP) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
	Publish-and-Read (PAR) agreement	Libraries, Funding organisations	Calculated on estimated publishing volume	Everyone	Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
Diamond OA (Library support)	Subscribe to Open (S2O) e.g., Annual Reviews	Libraries, Funding organisations	Based on previous subscriptions	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	
	SCOAP3 (CERN-led HEP consortium)	Libraries, Sponsoring HEP organisations	Negotiations with publishers	Everyone	Everyone	Yes	

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Closed	Subscription (incl. hybrid journals)	Libraries	Too much	Scientists at subscribing institutions	Everyone	No	
Closed + Rights Retention	<b>Closed + Rights Retention</b>				Everyone	Yes	Costs of journal subscription
Gold OA (APCs)	<del>APCs: disruptive, non-equitable</del>				Paying authors	Yes	
	Overlay journals				Paying authors	Yes	
Transformative Agreements (max. 3 yrs.)	<b>Transformative Agreements</b>				Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
					Authors from funding organisations	3 years	
Diamond OA (Library support)	<b>Collaborative Models: Subscribe to Open (S2O)</b>				Everyone	Yes	
					Everyone	Yes	

# TRANSFORMATIVE AGREEMENTS

- Agreements between research organisations / countries + publishers
- Publish-and-Read (PAR) / Read-and-Publish (RAP)
- Access to publisher's open and closed content + OA publishing

## Costs

- Complex cost calculation: Subscription + #papers (APCs)
- Number of articles capped; high costs for additional papers (e.g., *Nature* EUR 9,500)
- TAs for max. 3 years, then what? Savings for participants?

## Librarian's View

- TAs result in yet another (publisher-driven) dependency (“**Big Deal**”)
- Will they “cement” **APCs** for OA?
- How about **small, specialised libraries** without need for entire portfolio?
- PARs / RAPs potentially interesting **if they**
  - ➔ make publishing costs **transparent at reasonable prices**
  - ➔ provide **unlimited** OA publishing
  - ➔ cater to the **situation of specialised organisations**

# OVERLAY JOURNALS

- “Gold OA”, but low (or no) publishing costs
- Existing eprint infrastructure (e.g., arXiv) plus refereeing system
- Initiatives run by volunteers (researchers), based on grants (foundations)
- Example: *The Open Journal of Astrophysics* (<https://astro.theoj.org/>)

## Costs

- Low, if any (few or no in-house services, e.g., copy-editing)

## Librarian’s View

- Model promises **real savings**
- Long-term **sustainability?**
- Danger of **losing publishers’ expertise?**
- Unknown titles **lack recognition;**
- Overlay journals build on **shift in research evaluation** towards Open Science



# SUBSCRIPTION + RIGHTS RETENTION

- Peer-reviewed manuscripts (Author-Accepted Manuscripts, AAM) submitted to subject-based or institutional repositories
- Funders' requirement: use of open license (e.g., CC-BY)
- Changing the “FAIRness” of manuscripts, not journals
- Example: *Science* (AAAS)



## Costs

- n/a

## Librarian's View

- Very **promising alternative**
- Results in two **parallel versions** of papers (version of record + AAM)
- Feasible only for journals with **extensive content besides research articles?**
- No changes to traditional journal publishing

# COLLABORATIVE MODELS: S2O

- Continued library subscriptions to achieve global OA
- Participating libraries have previously shown interest in content
- Example: **Subscribe to Open (S2O)**
- “Free riders” problem: OA achieved only if all subscribers participate

## Costs

- Subscription fee: transparent and predictable
- Possible discounts (e.g., “Early Bird Renewals”)
- Decreasing fees if additional subscribers participate



## Librarian's View

- Uses **existing infrastructure** (budget handling), can be **implemented fast**
- Is **predictable** and **equitable**
- Reflects **specific information needs** of specialised research community
- Workflow unchanged, OA achieved: **high acceptance expected**

## Astronomers not sure about OA benefits

- Long-standing culture of sharing
- Often see OA regulations as a burden
- Ensure “buy-in” through hassle-free OA models

## Reduce / stabilise costs

- Originally a **main driver of OA** movement; crucial in current economic crises
- **Cost neutrality** paramount (for ESO and others)
- **Avoid dependancy** on (high-price commercial) publishers

## Open Access is a paradigm shift. We must get it right!

- Too important to rush to “solutions” prematurely (and accept APC-based systems)
- Libraries make **strategic choices** when enabling OA
- Let’s strive for **collaborative, equitable, transparent, sustainable models**