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Rules for payment of publication fees at Tomas Bata University in Zlín



Institutional Quality and Development of Science Strategy at UTB

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Rules for payment of publication fees at UTB Zlín

Preamble

This methodology defines the basic concepts, principles and criteria for funding the publication of open articles from University of Tomáš Bat'a in Zlín (hereinafter referred to as UTB). The aim of the methodology is to encourage publishing in prestigious fully open access journals and, on the contrary, to eliminate the payment of publication fees for journals of lower quality or even predatory journals. The methodology is intended to contribute to the efficient use of UTB's financial resources.

Current trends and pressure from funders to publish research results in Open Access mode are bringing new approaches to publishing scientific articles. One of them is the need to pay publication fees for some types of journals. This is a fundamental transformation of the publishing system, where journals no longer collect funds for their operation through subscriptions from users, but collect publication fees from authors of articles, which are then available to readers free of charge. As this is a relatively new, highly complex area, this methodology provides the basic rules and procedures for the payment of these fees.

Definition of basic terms

- 1) **Open access to scientific information** means free and unrestricted online access to information with the right to re-use the content. It provides permanent, immediate, free and unrestricted online access to the full text of published scientific results for anyone.
- 2) **Gold Open Access** means publishing in peer-reviewed open access publishing platforms. This ensures immediate open access to the publication on the journal or publisher's website.
- 3) **Green Open Access** means that an author publishes his/her article in a subscription-based journal, using auto-archiving to deposit the author's version of the article in an open repository, thus ensuring open access for all users.
- 4) **Platinum Open Access** is an open access model based on publishing scientific articles without paying a fee. Access is therefore provided without the need to incur fees on the part of both the reader and the author. The cost of publishing such articles is covered by subsidies, grants or sponsors.
- 5) **Article Processing Charges (APCs)**, or publication charges, cover the publisher's costs associated with publishing and replace the traditional journal subscription model. APCs are paid by the author or his/her home institution. This is a fee for making a publication open access and APC amounts can vary depending on the field or prestige of the publisher.
- 6) **Open journals** are periodicals that provide the end user with access to published articles free of charge without any fees. They are divided into three basic types:

- a) **Open journals without a fee** are those whose complete content is openly available and the authors of the articles do not pay APCs to the journal. The publisher bears the costs of publication. In this case, it may be, for example, a university press or a scientific community.
 - b) **Open journals with APCs** also have all journal content openly available, but the costs of publishing are passed on to the author in the form of publication fees. The level of fees varies from title to title, and disciplinary differences are also important.
 - c) **Hybrid journals** only provide open access to selected articles for which the author has paid APCs. The rest of the content is only available to subscribers. This type of open access is offered by most major publishing houses.
- 7) **Predatory journals** are whose business model involves collecting publication fees without the publishers ensuring the quality of the publishing process. The lack of a proper peer review process, aggressive spam campaigns when approaching authors, deliberately misleading information about the journal's quality indicators and its indexing in major databases, etc. are common. Publication of articles in this type of journals can damage the scientific reputation of the author and the institution itself.

Rules for payment of APCs

- 1) UTB Zlín is committed to ensuring open access to as many of its publications as possible. However, this does not mean automatic payment of APCs for all types of journal publications.
- 2) APCs are paid only in cases where the author lists UTB in Zlín as his affiliation. If researchers from more than one institution are involved in the article, it is necessary to clarify in advance within the author's team how the APCs will be distributed.
- 3) The payment of APCs for fully open access journals is supported as a priority (see point 6a in the previous paragraph).
- 4) In the case of hybrid journals (point 6c in the previous paragraph), payment of APCs is not recommended and free access to the article can be ensured in this case preferably by the green route of open access, i.e. by auto-archiving the article in the university repository. This is because in the case of payment of APCs for hybrid journals, there is often double payment, i.e. payment to the publisher for both the journal subscription and the publication of the articles.
- 5) The qualitative rules for the payment of APCs are set by each faculty and unit independently (for example, the grading of source journals into quartiles according to the current Methodology 2017+ can be used)
- 6) Reimbursement of APCs is strictly prohibited for predatory journals. To identify such journals, authors can use the tools offered by the UTB Library (e.g. Cabell's blacklist of predatory journals or the quality assessment service for scientific journals - more here: <https://knihovna.utb.cz/veda-a-vyzkum/podpora-vedy-a-vyzkumu/predatorske-casopisy/>).

Sources of funding for APCs

Publication fees are usually large of money. It is therefore necessary to seek a sustainable financial framework for their payment.

- 1) Grants and projects from external - the vast majority of , both nationally and internationally, consider funds to pay for APCs to be an allowable expense. When writing research projects, it is therefore necessary to plan ahead for the expenditure on APCs.
- 2) Internal resources of faculties and units - own financial resources may be used to support high quality articles in accordance with the internal rules of individual faculties and units.
- 3) Central Open Access Support Fund
- 4) University authors can take advantage of discounts on publication fees from various publishers, a current list of which is available at <https://open.k.utb.cz/poplatky-apc/>.

Accounting and Monitoring APCs

- 1) APCs are charged in the SAP system to account 518900 Other services - publication of results. For correct posting it is necessary to text on the liquidation sheet in the case description field "publication of the results of the project".
- 2) The invoice must include the author of the article, the title of the article and the name of the journal in which the article is published.
- 3) The fee is recorded only for articles published in open access journals and journals that have only some articles published in open access (hybrid journals).
- 4) If the fee for the article was paid by a co-author from another institution, the fee is recorded by the institution.
- 5) If more than one institution contributes to the fee, the amount paid by the university is recorded.
- 6) Monitoring of APCs fees is necessary in order to get an overall overview of payments to individual publishers (many of them pay additional fees to UTB for subscriptions to their journals). The data obtained is thus very valuable for future negotiations with these publishers.
- 7) Monitoring of APCs is carried out by the UTB Library in cooperation with the Economics Department.
- 8) Once a year, the UTB Library submits a summary of APCs data to the CzechElib licensing centre, which negotiates subscription prices for individual publishers for the whole Czech Republic.
- 9) The source of the fee information is the invoice sent to the Library by the Economics Department.
- 10) The cost of APCs is only the cost of publishing the article. Costs for e.g. graphic and language editing on the publisher's side are not included in these costs.