

# The University of Calgary's Open Access Authors Fund

---

McMaster University and Wilfrid  
Laurier University, January 27, 2009  
Ryerson University, January 28, 2009

# What We've Going To Cover

---

- ❑ What is the Open Access Authors Fund?
- ❑ Setting up the Open Access Authors Fund
- ❑ Criteria – for authors and for journals and more
- ❑ The Fund in action
- ❑ The future of the Fund
- ❑ Some issues
- ❑ Other OA activities at the University of Calgary

# What is the Open Access Authors Fund?

---

- The Open Access Authors Fund is designed to pay the fees charged by some publishers for articles to be published in Open Access (OA) journals by University of Calgary authors

# Setting up the Fund

---

- ❑ BMC membership change (\$5,000 to \$50,000)
- ❑ Growth of other submission fees OA publishing programs (fully OA publishers, “hybrid” programs)
- ❑ Increasing knowledge and discussion of OA
- ❑ Unequal access among authors to money to pay submission fees
- ❑ June 2008 start, in conjunction with ALA and SPARC meetings
- ❑ \$100,000 CAN for 2008/2009

# Criteria – For Authors

---

- ☐ Who is eligible?
- ☐ Faculty, staff, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers
- ☐ No undergraduate students, no adjuncts (for now)

# Criteria – For Journals

---

- ❑ Fully Open Access journals e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, some others
- ❑ “Hybrid” Open Access journals where subscription costs are lowered in response to the take-up of the OA program e.g. OUP, AIP (others?)

# Other Criteria

---

- ☐ No limits to the number of submissions or costs
- ☐ Other fees (e.g. illustration, colour, page charges) are not covered
- ☐ Articles only (for now)
- ☐ Authors have to exhaust other funding before applying to the Fund
- ☐ Author options:
  - Put article in institutional repository
  - Use article in promotion of the Fund

# The Fund in Action

---

- ❑ Operating since September 2008
- ❑ In a “soft launch”
- ❑ 28 official submissions
- ❑ Most authors from biomedical fields
- ❑ Publishers represented: BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, Dove, Bentham, IOP, Wiley-Blackwell
- ❑ 3 rejections



# The Fund in Action (cont.)

---

- ❑ About \$45,700 CAN in payments so far
- ❑ Average payment=\$1828 CAN
- ❑ Range of payments: \$664-\$3146 CAN
- ❑ Some prepayments and memberships e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi
- ❑ Reimbursed authors back to April 1, 2008
- ❑ 1<sup>st</sup> in Canada, 6<sup>th</sup> in the world

# Some Issues

---

- ☐ Are we being too generous?
- ☐ Are we being taken advantage of?
- ☐ Are we paying more than if we just had individual subscriptions?
- ☐ The Fund vs. the economic situation

# The Future of the Fund

---

- ☐ More advertising, promotion
- ☐ More presentations to and talks with U of C departments and faculties and elsewhere
- ☐ Advisory group
- ☐ Evaluation after first year

# Other Open Access Activities at the University of Calgary

---

- Institutional Repository  
(<https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/>)
  - third largest in Canada
- University of Calgary Press  
(<http://www.uofcpress.com/Journals.html>)
- Synergies Project  
(<http://www.synergiescanada.org/>)

# Conclusion

---

- ❑ So far, so good
- ❑ We're providing a service of interest to many of our users
- ❑ Doing our bit to change the journal publication model
- ❑ Getting people to think about Open Access and scholarly communication issues

# Questions? Discussion?

---



# Your Speaker

---

Andrew Waller

Serials Librarian

University of Calgary

[waller@ucalgary.ca](mailto:waller@ucalgary.ca)

(403) 220-8133 voice

(403) 284-2109 fax