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
- 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
- 1st in Canada, 6th 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

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