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# The Open Access Authors Fund At The University Of Calgary: History and Evaluation

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Open Access Week 2011  
University of Regina  
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# What We're Going To Cover

- What is the Open Access Authors Fund?
- Some history
- Criteria – for authors
- Criteria – for journals/publishers
- Other criteria
- The Fund in Action
- Some Issues
- The University of Calgary Open Access Suite

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# 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
- Money comes solely from Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) funds
- One of about 40 or so similar funds around the world
- Other funds in Canada include SFU and Ottawa

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# Some History

- BMC membership change (\$5,000 to \$50,000)
- Growth of OA publishing programs (fully OA journals, “hybrid” programs)
- Increasing knowledge and discussion of OA
- Unequal access among authors to money to pay OA fees
- June 2008 start
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Canada, 6<sup>th</sup> in the world

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# Criteria – For Authors

- Who is eligible?
  - Faculty, staff, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, adjuncts
  - No undergraduate students

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# Criteria – For Journals/Publishers

- What is eligible?
  - 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, Springer

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# 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

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# The Fund In Action (part 1)

- Operating since September 2008
  - Are part-way through 4<sup>th</sup> fiscal year
- Started with a “soft launch” and just rolled into regular operations
- 204 accepted articles
- Most authors from biomedical fields but the disciplines represented are broadening
- 13 publishers represented
  - BMC has the most articles (by far) followed by Hindawi and PLoS



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# The Fund In Action (part 2)

- 106 different journals
  - PLoS One has the most articles followed by BMC Health Services Research and Journal of Trauma Management and Outcomes
- Average payment=\$1643 CAN
- Range of payments: \$200-\$3146 CAN
- Some prepayments and memberships e.g. BMC, Hindawi

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# Some Issues

- Are we meeting a need?
- Are we creating any sort of actual change?
- Are we paying more than if we just had individual subscriptions?
- Can we continue to meet demand?
- The Fund vs. the economic situation
- Beyond journal articles

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# University of Calgary Open Access Suite

- Institutional Repository (DSpace):  
<http://dspace.ucalgary.ca>
- University of Calgary Press:  
[www.ucalgary.ca/UP/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/UP/)
- Synergies: <http://synergiesprairies.ca>
- Digitization: <http://lcr.ucalgary.ca/digitization>

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# Websites

- University of Calgary Open Access Authors Fund: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/services/-faculty/open-access/open-access-authors-fund-0>
- Open Access Directory: [http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Main\\_Page](http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Main_Page)
- Campus-Based Open Access Publishing Funds: <http://www.arl.org/sparc/openaccess/funds/>

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# Questions? Discussion?



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# Your Speaker

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