

# Faculty attitudes and behaviors towards open access publishing at an R2 university

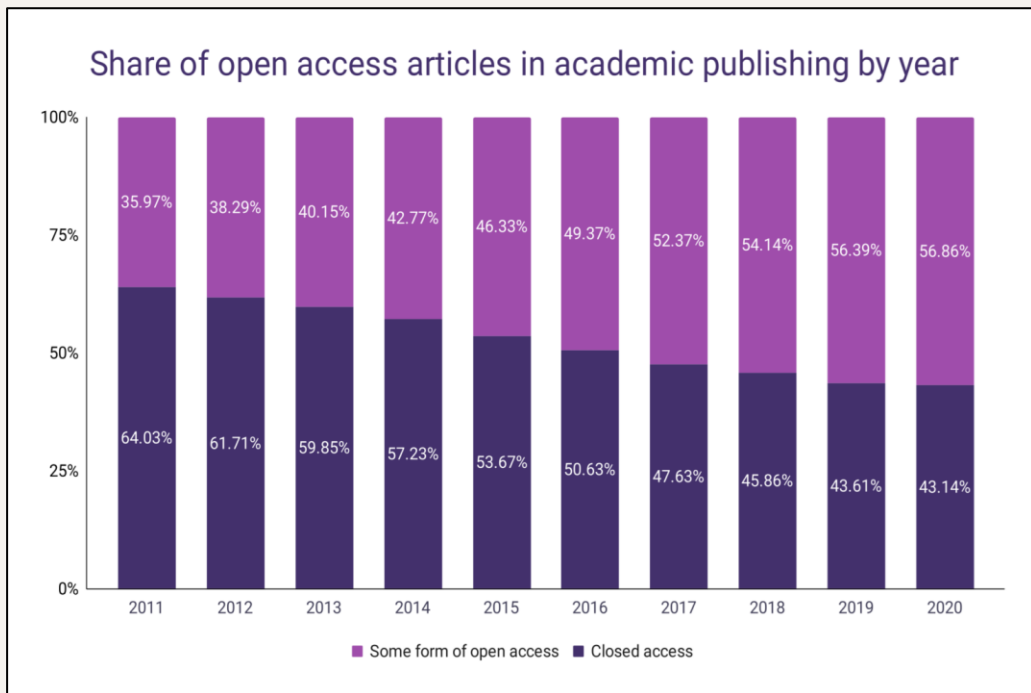
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<https://bit.ly/44vEdWV>

# Growth of OA publishing

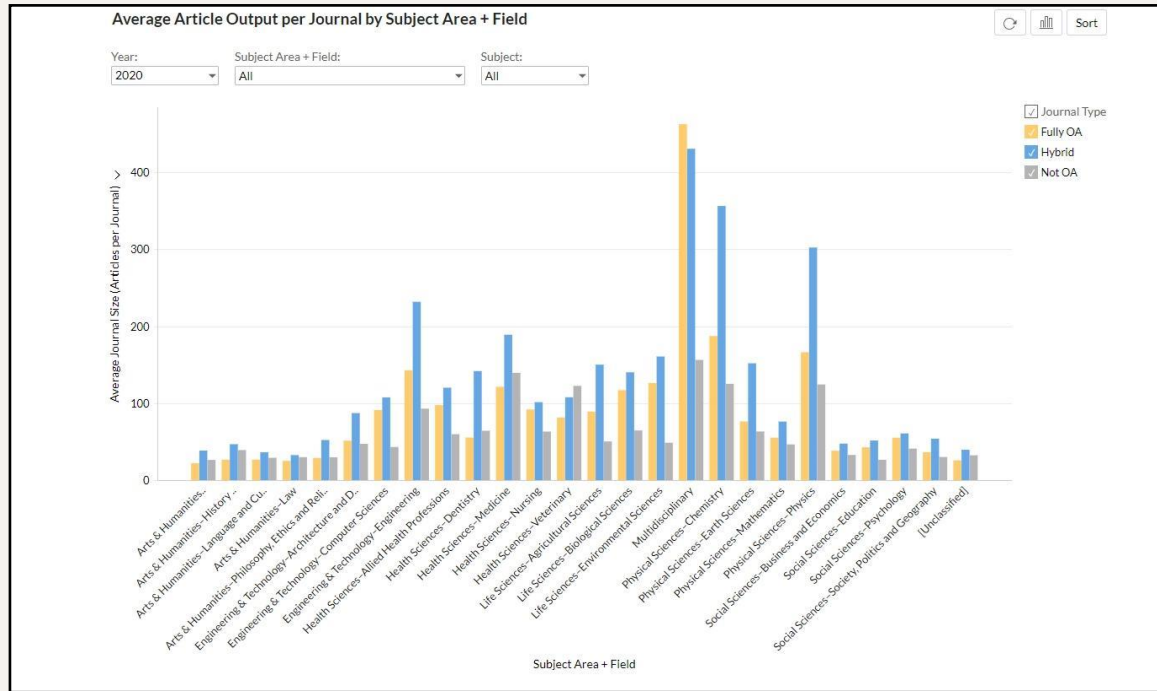


**2020: Over 56% of academic articles published have some form of open access.**

**Articles with open access accounted for over half of all published articles for the fourth year in a row.**

Source: <https://wordrated.com/open-access-publishing-statistics/>

# OA publishing across disciplines



Growth of open-access publishing is impacting all disciplines

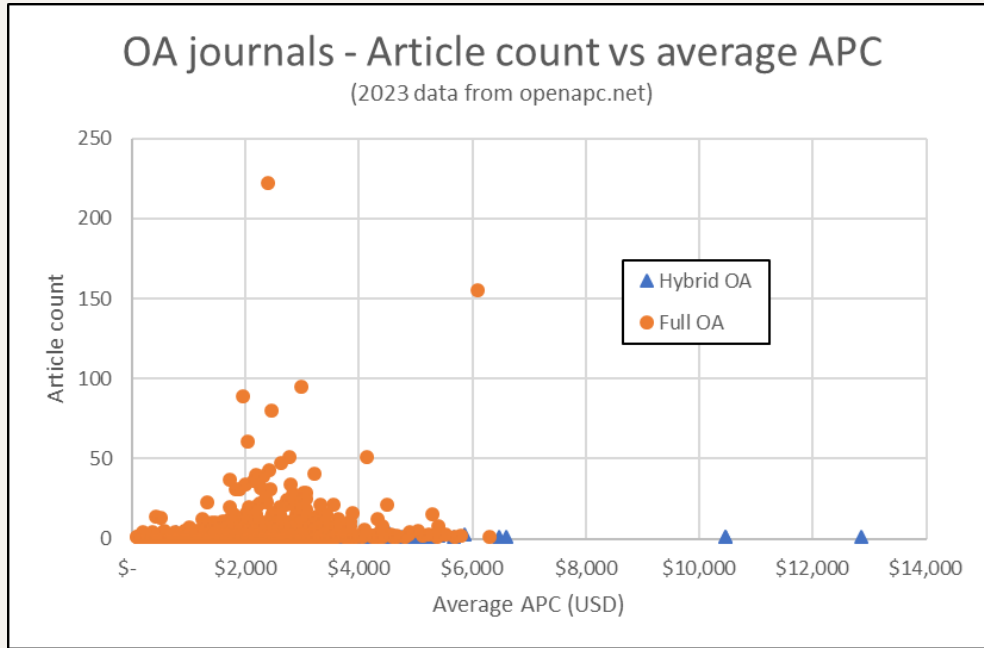
Source: <https://deltathink.com/open-access/oa-data-analytics-tool/>

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# OA publishing models

- **Article Processing Charge/Fee (APC/APF)** - fee paid at time of publication to enable open access.
  - **Transformative Agreements (TA)** - agreements that provide for some amount of both read and publish (w/o APC).
  - **Subscribe to Open** - similar to subscription models except except subscription supports OA
  - **Memberships/Community Action/Investment** - members or a community support publishing costs (fee levels) which opens content for non-members
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# Cost to Publish (APCs)



Source: openapc.net

APCs cost rising steadily

Median APC of \$2384, with some journals charging upwards of \$12K per article.

APC rates for fully OA journals rose 9.5%, with the highest fee rising from \$5,560 to a record maximum fee of \$8,900.

APCs for hybrid open-access journals rose by 4.2% with the maximum APC for a hybrid OA journal reaching \$12,290

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# Our research question(s)

1. **Impact on faculty** - What impacts have the growth of OA publishing had on faculty? How do faculty manage to fund their OA publications?
2. **Effect on academic library workflows and budgets** - What impacts will these changes in OA publishing have on our library's workflows and budget (and how can we prepare)?

*Disclosure: Today's session is mainly about 1. Impact on faculty, while 2. Effect on library workflows and budget is a work-in-progress.*

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# Study design

We conducted an online survey to determine the impact of open access publishing on faculty...

- in their different roles (researchers, authors and instructors)
- including the impacts of article processing charges from journal publishers.

OA definition for survey respondents:

Open access (OA) publications are *online publications that are made freely available to readers without a subscription or paywall*. For the purposes of this study, OA publications are **any version of literature or scholarship materials made freely available online** (incl. pre or post-prints, data, figures, etc.), but **excluding open-source software**.

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# Distribution & responses

Which school/college are you primarily associated with? (choose one)	
College of Arts & Sciences	85
School of Business Administration	12
School of Education and Human Services	12
School of Engineering and Computer Science	22
School of Health Sciences	21
School of Music, Theatre and Dance	3
School of Nursing	9
University Libraries	4
Other	2
(blank)	39
Total	209

Table 1: OU faculty survey respondents by school/college.

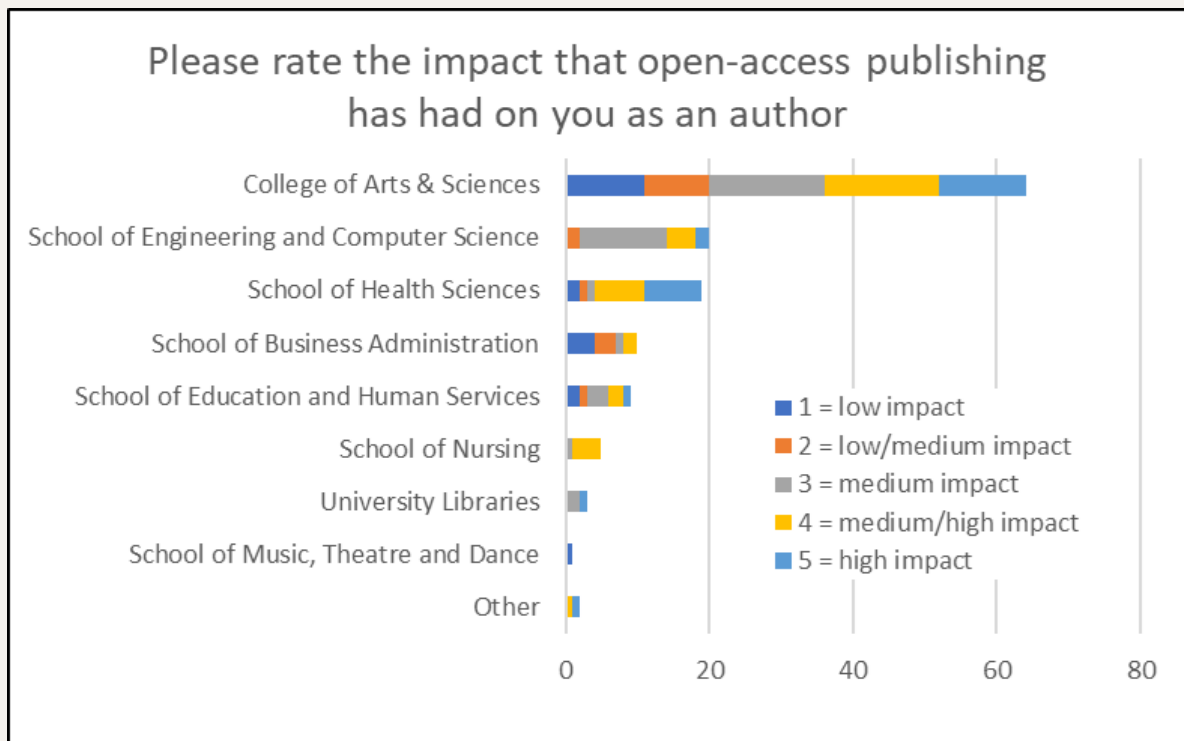
**Distributed via email to (500) tenured/tenure-track faculty.**

**Sent email reminders weekly during Nov 2023 - Jan 2024.**

**(209) respondents (response rate about 42%).**



# Faculty perception of OA publishing impact on authors



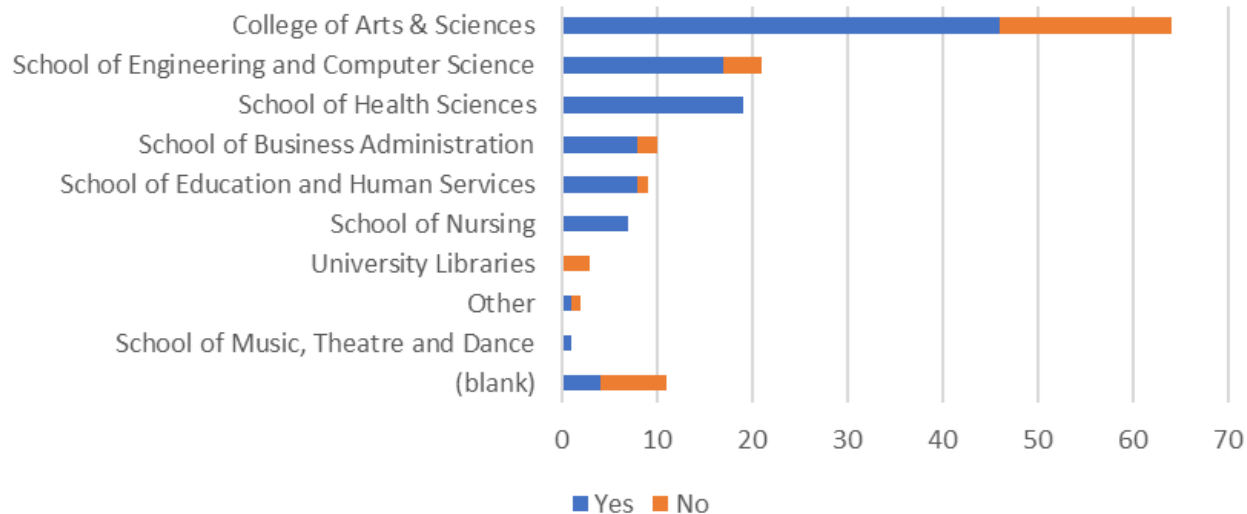
**72%** stated that open-access publishing had a significant impact on them as authors

**71%** had published articles in open-access journals

**41%** had paid APCs

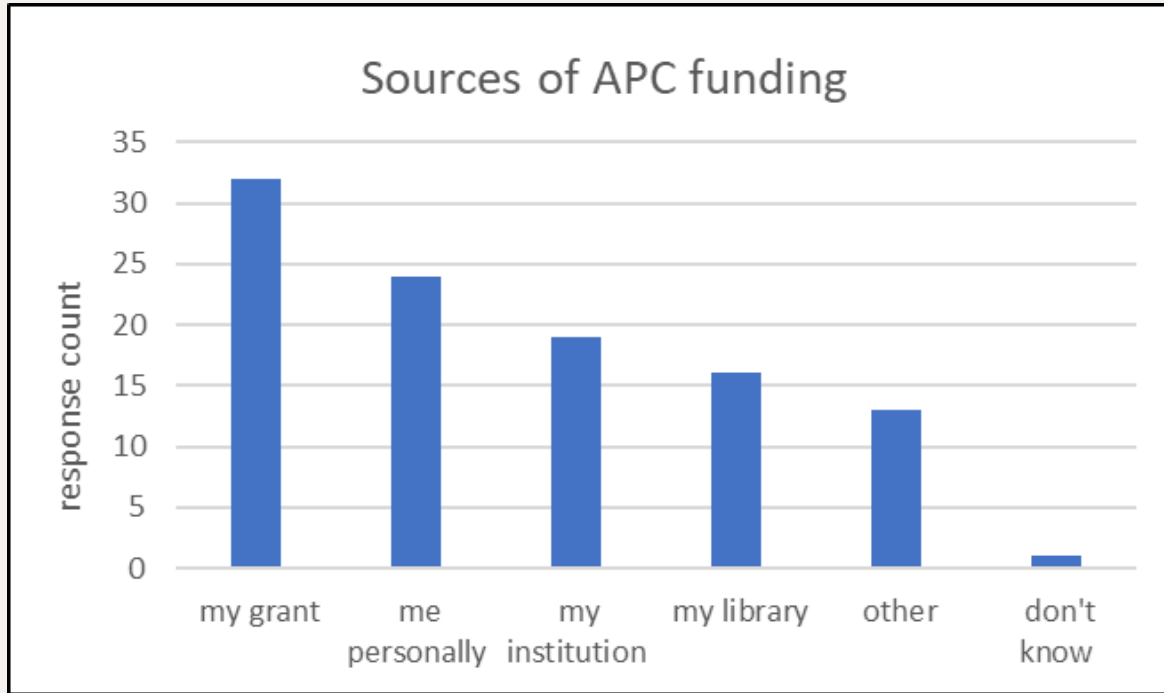
# Impact of APCs on authorship

Have you ever chosen not to publish in an open access journal because of the article processing charge/ fee?



Overall, 70% of respondents have chosen not to publish because of an APC

# How did faculty fund their APCs?



Among the “other” response, eight were funded by collaborators or co-authors.

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# Summary of faculty responses (role: author)

*Please list the ways that you as an author have been impacted by the shift to open access publishing.*

## **Cost/Affordability of Open Access Publishing**

- Authors have limited ability to publish due to lack of funding to support APCs.
- Authors have withdrawn papers from consideration or declined to submit to open access journals because of APCs.

## **Institutional/Departmental Support for Open Access Publishing**

- Lack of institutional or departmental support for APCs has limited authors' ability to publish open access.

## **Lack of Familiarity or Experience with Open Access Publishing**

- Some authors have limited experience with or understanding of open access publishing.
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# Selected faculty comments about APCs

*"I have withdrawn papers from consideration because of article processing fees. I will also never pay out of my own pocket to publish, so the increase in open access journals has paradoxically decreased my options for where I can publish my work."*

*"It would be fantastic if there were ways to apply for funding to cover open access fees. Especially for faculty in between grants. This could really help to improve the quality of journals we are able to submit to (even if I think the fees are way too high to begin with)."*

*"My department doesn't cover these fees. The university appears not to cover these fees. Why would I be the one to pay them? It's stupid to pay to do your job. I will only publish open access in legitimately free places, like journals run entirely on volunteer labor with their own Creative Commons licensing...."*

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# Summary of faculty responses (library role)

*In what ways has the growing availability of open access literature and data impacted your use of and relationship with the library?*

## **Mixed Impact and Awareness**

- Some researchers express little to no impact, while others acknowledge positive changes such as greater access to resources or decreased reliance on the library.
- Concerns are raised about the financial burden of open access publishing on individual researchers and the lack of support from institutions.

## **Role of Libraries**

- Researchers highlight the role of libraries in facilitating access to both open access and non-open access resources.
  - Appreciation for library services such as interlibrary loan and assistance in finding high-quality resources.
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# Selected faculty responses (library role)

*"I believe that there is a huge role for the library in providing access to non-open access resources and helping with literature reviews. I still believe that there will be many journals that are not going to go open access ever so we would still need those journals."*

*"I do not believe that it has impacted me, mainly because the library has subscriptions to many non-open access journals that I use in my research and teaching."*

*"It's always a good thing to have open access sources...As a researcher, I would also want to use open access for my works to increase readership and citations."*

*"I would like if the library can create options for the researchers to publish open access."*

*"It allows me to access the work directly rather than hoping the library has a subscription or going through interlibrary loan."*

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# Data collected on other faculty roles

## Impact as researcher

- Respondents did not see distinct roles of author vs. researcher.
  - Respondents did not always make a distinction between open access and subscription-based materials they accessed.
  - Some respondents commented on the limited availability of open access materials in their field.
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# Data collected on other faculty roles

## Impact as instructor

- Many respondents commented about open textbooks, OER and free materials.
  - Some expressed concerns about the availability and suitability of open access materials for their courses.
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# Using the data

- Results were used to support a memo to our provost, research office, and faculty union on the barriers to equitable publishing by OU faculty.

“Results from a survey of OU faculty indicate a significant impact of open-access publishing on faculty and strong faculty support for institutional funding of open-access APCs.”

The issue has been acknowledged in the university’s strategic planning process.

- Will use the data to provide focus for scholarly communication workshops for faculty and graduate students.
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# Lessons learned

1. Pilot the survey prior to distribution.
2. Design demographic questions in a more intentional manner (utility vs confidentiality)
3. Always be thinking ahead about next steps.

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# Pick your own adventure...

1. How do you engage with your faculty on these topics?
  2. What role(s) do your faculty see for the library in supporting OA publication (financially or otherwise)?
  3. How is OA publication funded by your institution?
  4. What faculty services around OA publication does your library (or your institution) offer? How do you measure impact?
  5. How is OA affecting your library operations or budget?
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# Credits & References

- Theme extraction and summarization of faculty free-text responses by claude.ai and ChatGPT.
  - 2023 APC cost data from openapc.net
  - Presentation template from Slidesgo, including icons by Flaticon, infographics and images by Freepic.
  - Open Access Publishing Statistics - WordsRated. (2023, June 2). <https://wordsrated.com/open-access-publishing-statistics/>
  - OA Data & Analytics Tool. (n.d.). Delta Think. (<https://deltathink.com/open-access/oa-data-analytics-tool/>)
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# Acknowledgement

Oakland University resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabe, known as the Three Fires Confederacy, comprised of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi. The land was ceded in the 1807 Treaty of Detroit and makes up southeast Michigan.

In recognizing the history and respecting the sovereignty of Michigan's Indian Nations, Oakland University honors the heritage of Indigenous communities and their significant role in shaping the course of this region.

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# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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