



Towards scholar-owned, transparently priced Open Access without author-facing fees

A Blog for Academic Lead Publishing Day

The organization

The [Fair Open Access Alliance](#) (FOAA) is an organization with a mission to coordinate efforts toward sustainable open access scholarly publishing, following the 5 principles of [Fair Open Access](#):

1. The journal has a transparent ownership structure, and is controlled by and responsive to the scholarly community.
2. Authors of articles in the journal retain copyright.
3. All articles are published open access and an explicit open access licence is used.
4. Submission and publication is not conditional in any way on the payment of a fee from the author or its employing institution, or on membership of an institution or society.
5. Any fees paid on behalf of the journal to publishers are low, transparent, and in proportion to the work carried out.

In 2015, Linguistics in Open Access ([LingOA](#)) and FOAA facilitated the transition to Fair Open Access of 4 journals in linguistics (*Lingua* > [Glossa](#), *Journal of Portuguese Linguistics*, *Italian Journal of Linguistics*, and *Laboratory Phonology*). In 2017, FOAA helped the mathematics community flip *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics* (Springer) to *Algebraic Combinatorics* (Mersenne) in collaboration with [MathOA](#).

January 2019: from JOI to QSS

Most recently, FOAA played a key role in facilitating the flip of *Journal of Informetrics* to *Quantitative Science Studies* (*QSS*). *QSS* is owned by ISSI, the primary scholarly and professional society for scientometrics and informetrics, and will be published jointly with the [MIT Press](#) in compliance with fair open access principles. *QSS* will be a journal run for and by the scientometric community. The initial editorial board will be fully constituted by the former editorial board of the *Journal of Informetrics* (*JOI*), an Elsevier-owned journal.

The transition of the editorial board from *JOI* to *QSS* was initiated by the unanimous resignation, on January 10th, 2019, of all members of the *JOI* editorial board. The editorial board members are in agreement that (1) scholarly journals should be owned by the scholarly community rather than by commercial publishers, (2) journals should be open access under fair principles, and (3) publishers should make their [citation data freely available](#). These conditions were not accepted by Elsevier, prompting the termination of the relationship with this publisher.

The content for *QSS* will be open access and therefore freely available for readers worldwide. To ensure access for authors, the MIT Press will charge a comparatively low charge of \$800 per article which will be fully covered by the Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB) - Leibniz Information Centre for Science and Technology for the first three years of operation. The funds from TIB will be managed by FOAA to ensure that the journal is operating under fair open access principles.

Plan S

In addition to its efforts in facilitating the transition of journals to Fair Open Access, FOAA has also been actively involved in formulating [comments](#) that will help operationalize [Plan S](#). Some of these, such as the requirement that APC costs be transparent, have been adopted in the [guidance document](#) that serves as a clarification to the implementation of Plan S.

The organization has also been involved in pushing back against criticism of Plan S in [this reaction](#) to the open letter to Plan S. This prompted Jon Tennant to write on Twitter: “the Fair Open Access Alliance [’s response] to the open letter against #Plan_S is excellent, and does not pull any punches. I agree with virtually all of it.”

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