



Open Access Publication Fund Annual Report:

2020-2021

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Mary and Jeff Bell Library, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Executive Summary

The Open Access Publication Fund at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi underwrites author publication charges for open access scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and monographs. The fund seeks to encourage greater participation in open access publishing so that Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's research is free of subscription barriers and we support the adoption of open science practices that can help sustain Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's status as an R2 Doctoral University. Numerous research studies show that OA publishing increases the visibility of publications, thereby increasing visibility, citations, and the use of faculty research all of which enhance the reputation of TAMU-CC and its faculty.

Major outcomes for 2020-2021:

- The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds for 34 faculty, staff, and graduate students from 5 colleges/research organizations.
- The Open Access Publication Fund supported the publication fees for 16 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$30,000.

What are the Goals of the Program?

The Open Access Publication Fund at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi underwrites publication charges for scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and monographs published in open access publications.

The goals of the Open Access Publication Fund at TAMU-CC support and encourage:

1. Increase access to research and scholarship produced by researchers at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
2. Support and encourage innovative models of scholarly publishing that take advantage of digital and networking technologies
3. Help cover costs for TAMU-CC faculty and researchers publishing materials to Open Access venues

The Mary and Jeff Bell Library, the Division of Research and Innovation, and the Office of the Provost each committed \$10,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year, for a total of \$30,000 for the 2020-2021 year.

How is the Program Managed?

Eligibility

Any current member of the faculty or full-time research staff at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi are eligible to apply to the Open Access Publication Fund. The Open Access Publication Funds apply to Open Access publication charges: fees for peer-reviewed articles and book chapters or scholarly monographs published in journals or monographs that provide free online access to all peer-reviewed articles they publish. Manuscripts published in journals or monographs with a hybrid open-access model or delayed open-access model are not eligible for support from the Open Access Publication Fund.

Application review Process

The Scholarly Communication program of the Mary and Jeff Bell Library administers the Open Access Publication Fund. The library has advertised the program through campus-wide emails, a website, and presentations to various groups around campus. The Open Access Publication Fund application review process is as follows:

1. The application and eligibility for funding can be found at <https://guides.library.tamucc.edu/OpenAccess/OAFund>.
2. Publication OA and peer review status are verified using: Directory of Open Access Journals, Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, or Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association member list. Publication fees checked against fee schedule on publisher's website.
3. If eligibility criteria are met, the Scholarly Communication Librarian calculates individual author allocation based on total OA fee divided by number of eligible TAMU-CC authors on publication. Cumulative allocations to authors are tracked. Each author can request a maximum of \$3,000.00 per annum.
4. If the application is approved and ready for payment, an acceptance email is sent to applicant and TAMU-CC co-authors with directions for payment/reimbursement via Library Business Manager.
5. If the application is declined, an explanatory email is sent detailing reasons and, where necessary, pointers to relevant resources provided in support of successful future application. Most rejections are due to the applicant publishing in what is known as a hybrid journal, the Open Access Publication Fund does not support publishing in such journals. However, the library encourages the author(s) to submit a version of their manuscript to the [TAMU-CC Repository](#), using Green Open Access as an alternative option.
6. The article is archived in the faculty publications collection in TAMU-CC's institutional repository.

What are the Program Outcomes?

What was funded?

The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds to 33 faculty, staff, and graduate students in support of publication fees for 16 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$30,000 in the 2020-2021 academic year. Awards averaged \$1,750.50 per application with a range of \$449.56 to \$2,950. (The last award was in fact only \$237.13, although the author's invoice was \$900.00. If more funding had been available, the entire invoice of \$900 would have been covered.)

Open Access Publication Funds were distributed to faculty from 7 departments or organizations in different colleges/research organizations (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of authors funded by the Open Access Publication Fund by college and department, 2020-2021.

College	Department	Number of Awards
Business	Decision Sciences & Economics	1
Education & Human Development	Kinesiology	3
Science & Engineering	Computing Sciences	1
Science & Engineering	Life Sciences	5
Science & Engineering	Physical & Environmental	5

Research Institute	Number of Awards
Conrad Blucher Institute	1
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies	2

Who was funded?

Only one application was denied because they did not meet the fund’s guidelines for eligibility. The declined application requested support to cover publication fees for an ineligible hybrid Open Access journal that also charges subscriptions in addition to single article OA publication fees. This fiscal year we continued to fully fund articles coauthored by researchers from multiple institutions if the lead or corresponding author was from TAMU-CC. We surmised that partial funding would create a negative connotation about open access publishing among TAMU-CC authors.

The fund became available for applications in mid-October 2020. The fund was fully exhausted by the end of July 2021. This was the second year of the Open Access Publication Fund. In its first year (2019-2020), the fund was initially provided with \$15,000 and was completely depleted by mid-February. An additional \$12,000 was committed, which was fully distributed before the end of March 2020. Although demand for open access funding was down in the 2020-2021 academic year – compared to the previous year – it is suspected that there is a correlation to the COVID-19 pandemic and a decrease in faculty conducting research and publishing their research compared to previous years. Although the fund was not depleted as quickly as it was in its first year, authors still utilized the entirety of the \$30,000; the final author was rewarded the remaining balance of the fund \$237.13, and the author had to cover the remaining \$662.87 of their \$900 invoice. If the fund were to be repeated in 2021-2022, it is recommended that funding start at the same level of \$30,000.

Table 2. Top journals of papers supported by Open Access Publication Fund awards, 2020-2021.

Journal Name	Articles Funded (#)	SJR Rank	JCR Quartile	Categories
Biogeosciences	1	1.74	Q1	Agricultural and Biological Sciences & Earth and Planetary Sciences
Frontiers in Marine Science	2	1.56	Q1	Agricultural and Biological Sciences & Earth and Planetary Sciences & Engineering & Environmental Science
International Journal of Molecular Sciences	1	1.46	Q1	Biochemistry & Chemical Engineering & Chemistry & Computer Science & Medicine
Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition	1	1.34	Q1	Agricultural and Biological Sciences & Health Professions & Nursing
Frontiers in Physiology	1	1.32	Q1	Biochemistry & Medicine
Remote Sensing	1	1.29	Q1	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Ecology and Evolution	1	1.17	Q1	Agricultural and Biological Sciences & Environmental Science
PLOS ONE	1	0.99	Q1	Multidisciplinary