



Open Access Publication Fund Annual Report:

2021-2022

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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 2021-2022:

- The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds for 61 faculty, staff, and graduate students from all 5 colleges as well as both the Harte Research Institute for the Gulf of Mexico Studies and the Conrad Blucher Institute. This is the first year of the program in which all colleges requested and were approved funding.
- The Open Access Publication Fund supported the publication fees for 23 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$42,500.

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 2021-2022 year. Following high demand over the first six months of the fiscal year, the Library and the Office of the Provost committed an additional \$5,000 each, with an additional \$2,500 contributed from the Division of Research and Innovation, for a total of \$42,500 for the 2021-2022 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?

Who was funded?

The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds to 61 faculty, staff, and graduate students in support of publication fees for 23 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$42,500 in the 2021-2022 academic year. Awards averaged \$1,847.83 per application with a range of \$600 to \$3,000. (The last award was in fact only \$2,012.73, although the author's invoice was \$2,950.00. If more funding had been available, the entire invoice would have been covered.)

Open Access Publication Funds were distributed to faculty from 12 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	2
Business	Marketing	1
Education & Human Development	Kinesiology	1
Liberal Arts	Psychology and Sociology	1
Nursing and Health Sciences	Department of Population Health, Health Systems Leadership	1
Science & Engineering	Computing Sciences	1
Science & Engineering	Engineering	2
Science & Engineering	Life Sciences	7
Science & Engineering	Physical & Environmental	4

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

Funding Challenges

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 at the start of the fiscal year in September 2021. The fund was fully exhausted before the end of January 2022. The fund was provided an additional \$12,500 in February, which was subsequently spent out before the end of July 2022. This was

the third 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. In the second year (2020-2021), the fund was provided \$30,000 and was spent out by the end of July 2021. 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. In its third year, the fund was heavily utilized, spending out the original funding of \$30,000 within the first half of the fiscal year, and depleting the additional \$12,500 before the end of the fiscal year.

Table 2. Top journals of papers supported by Open Access Publication Fund awards, 2021-2022.

Journal Name	Articles Funded (#)	SJR Rank	JCR Quartile	Categories
Environmental Epigenetics	1	1.07	Q1	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology
Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution	1	1.3	Q1	Ecology, Evolution, Behavior and Systematics
Frontiers in Marine Science	2	1.36	Q1	Agricultural and Biological Sciences & Earth and Planetary Sciences & Engineering & Environmental Science
Frontiers in Physiology	1	1.13	Q1	Biochemistry & Medicine
IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing	1	2.4	Q1	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Nature Communications	1	4.85	Q1	Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular
Remote Sensing	3	1.28	Q1	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Vaccines	2	1	Q1	Immunology and Microbiology

Additional Open Access Commitments

This year, an author who has previously benefited from the Open Access Publication Fund approached the library regarding funding for an entire book to be made open access. The TAMU-CC author was the editor of the book, as well as a coauthor with students on multiple chapters. There was funding commitment from a NOAA grant as well as one of the book’s coauthors as well as the coauthor’s institution, also within the A&M System (Galveston). Despite the Open Access Publication Fund’s policies not supporting the amount requested

(TAMU-CC's portion of the \$22,000 to publish the book fully open access is \$7,500), the library wanted to support TAMU-CC faculty and A&M partners in their desire to make their research accessible to all. Therefore, it was determined that although the current policies did not align with the request, the project aligned with our philosophy of support. We determined to use this as a pilot project to determine sustainability in the university's open access efforts.

In addition to providing funds for an open access book, the university supports open access through the Bell Library's membership with Texas Digital Library (TDL) which allows TAMU-CC students, staff, and faculty to make their works available open access through green open access (self-archiving) through the [TAMU-CC Repository](#). The TAMU-CC Repository hosts all electronic theses and dissertations published by graduate students, as well as green and gold open access articles by authors and students alike. New this year, the [Spring Student Research Symposium](#) was held for undergraduate as well as graduate students, and their posters or presentation materials are preserved in the TAMU-CC Repository. Additionally, through TDL, the Bell Library provides TAMU-CC authors the ability to start their own open access journal through TDL's OJS (Open Journal Software) hosting.

Future Recommendations and Strategies

For the year 2021-2022, the fund began with \$30,000 and was spent out by February 2022. The funding partners were able to offer an additional \$12,500, for a total of \$42,500 for the fiscal year, which was completely spent out before the end of July 2022. Based on this, it is recommended that for the fiscal year 2022-2023, \$48,000 be allocated to the Open Access Publication Fund, which would be a commitment of \$16,000 from each of the funding partners.

Additionally, based on the experiences of the previous years, and from feedback from authors (see appendix A), it is recommended that only \$12,000 be released per quarter, starting with September 1. The intention is so that authors who are publishing later in the fiscal year are not disadvantaged based on the low funding that is experienced towards the end of the fiscal year. Another recommendation is to amend the application policy, so that rather than faculty applying (and being approved) for funds at the time that their work is accepted for publication, they apply for funding at the time of submission of their article. This will hopefully encourage faculty who have not taken advantage of the fund in the past to apply, additionally it alleviates stress on faculty who submit an article to an open access publication but do not know if their article will actually be able to be published, if by the time their article is accepted there are no funds. Due to this recommended change in policy, it is also recommended that authors be limited to apply for funding only once per quarter, to avoid inequity.

In addition to additional funding and changes to the Open Access Publication Fund policies, it is recommended that the university join the [Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship \(HELIOS\)](#) as a commitment to Open Scholarship. The HELIOS alliance was formed in part to enact [UNESCO's recommendation on open science](#). While, numerous research studies show that open access publishing increases the visibility of publications, thereby increasing visibility, citations, and the use of faculty research thus enhancing the reputation of TAMU-CC and its faculty, the research community recognizes that open access needs to be sustained and sustainable, not only through financial contributions, but also through commitments from researchers and their institutions.

Appendix A

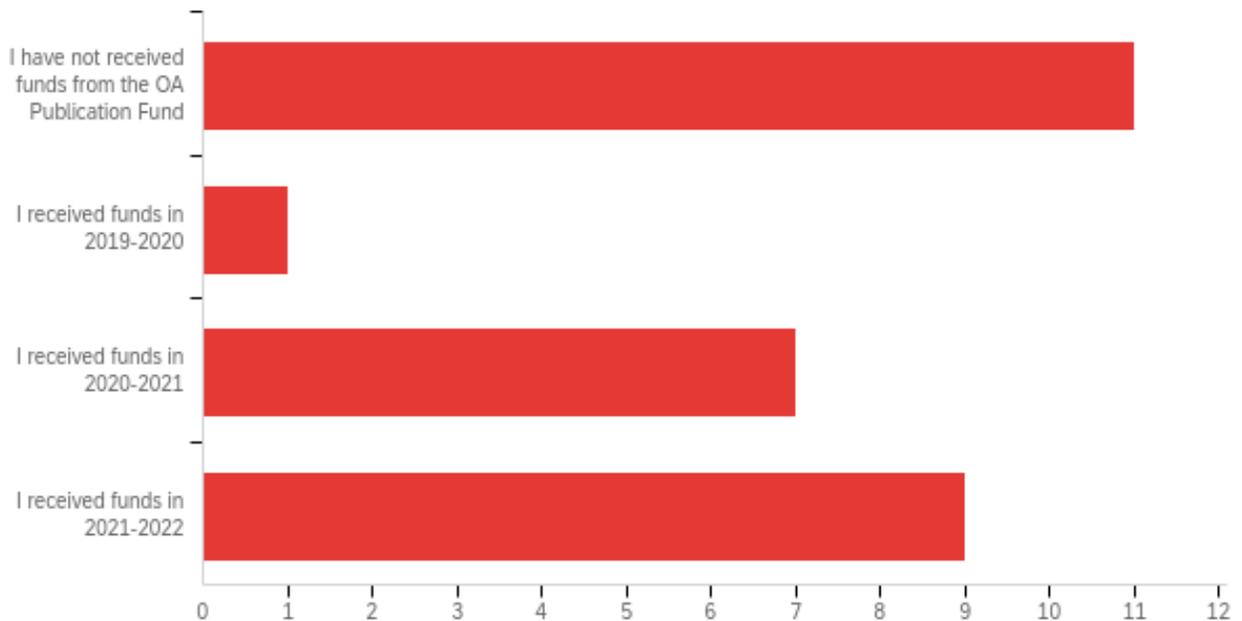
Results from Feedback Survey on Open Access Publication Fund Policies shared with CPIRA and all authors who have applied for funding

Default Report

Open Access (OA) Publication Fund Feedback Survey

June 22nd 2022, 3:55 pm MDT

Q2 - Have you used the Open Access (OA) Publication Fund before? (Please select all that apply)



#	Answer	%	Count
1	I have not received funds from the OA Publication Fund	39.29%	11
2	I received funds in 2019-2020	3.57%	1
3	I received funds in 2020-2021	25.00%	7
4	I received funds in 2021-2022	32.14%	9
	Total	100%	28

Q3 - If you have not used funds, is there a particular reason?

If you have not used funds, is there a particular reason?

No leftover fund when we reached out. Probably a wrong timing at that time

I was not aware of it

By the time I need the OA publication fund, it was not available or spent out for the academic year already.

I haven't been the lead author on a manuscript that is open access only. The lead author may have used this fund.

co-authors have received funds

My application was rejected

Q4 - What would you change or improve about the Open Access Publication Fund policies?

What would you change or improve about the Open Access Publication Fund policies?

I would allocate the fund evenly throughout 12 months. Or it can be adjusted every month slightly just to accommodate as many papers as possible. But keeping some funds for the last a few months should be really helpful. Otherwise, a wrong timing paper won't get the fund. But who knows how long a paper should be undergoing review. It's out of control of the researchers.

Please divide the fund for the academic year by 3, then, make 40% of fund during the Fall semester, 30% during the Spring semester, and the rest 30% during the Summer semester.

I think a more evenly distributed funding source for Fall and Spring, though for me, thus far, it has worked quite well.

none

NEED MORE! they have been out everytime I applied.

Perhaps try to increase the funding level to the university community, other than that this is a great resource!

Either a larger amount of funding or designated or "held" funding for those with proof of submitted publications.

Allow grad students and undergrad authors to be eligible for funds.

Nothing

It would be helpful for prospective applicants to make the funding opportunity more visible: Campus-wide announcement of the funding opportunity at the beginning of each academic year; and an update of the amount of the total fund left, say, at the end of each semester, or explain the decision process for funding approval, if the total amount of funding each year is not fixed. Just to help researchers understand what to expect from this fund.

It's great!

open to faculty

I don't understand why these funds are not available for hybrid journals. If you submit a paper to an open-access journal, you are supposed to already have funds to pay the related fees (otherwise you will not submit it to an open-access journal). However, these funds would be very useful to be used to "upgrade" regular papers by paying the open access option (even if there were no initial plans for publishing that way when the paper was submitted). This scenario, which I think is very common, will only happen when published in hybrid journals. That is my opinion.

Nothing

Q5 - How has the Open Access Publication Fund impacted you, your students, or your work?

How has the Open Access Publication Fund impacted you, your students, or your work?

Haven't yet but we believe it will eventually. We have a paper under review and hopefully it can be supported by this fund. If it can go OA, it should be really helpful for our work to gain more visibility. More peer review journals are not requesting the OA publication fee and the fund will enhance my scholarship by facilitating my publication of research manuscript.

it has supported to date 2 or 3 papers for my students (I cannot recall how many but it has been at least two and am extremely grateful.

It enables me to be free to pick the journal I prefer to publish in; I don't have to think about cost.

None, because I haven't had any.

With open access our publications were able to reach broader readership that would have been curtailed by the pay wall. So thank you very much for doing that!

OA has allowed publications timeline of approval to be more rapid due to access of many different journals. Funding seems to drive better review and approval times.

The funding has allowed me to publish and I am so grateful for the generous funding!

It has been helpful to support publishing in quality journals

The publication would not have been possible without the funding. Thank you.

It made the option to go open access an easy choice.

help their visibility

It allowed me as a student to publish in a high impact journal that otherwise would not have been possible due to cost of publishing.

The fund has made the publication of our research product easier for my research team.

Extremely helpful to advocate our research to the public

Q6 - Do you have any other feedback on the Open Access Publication Fund?

Do you have any other feedback on the Open Access Publication Fund?

Please update the balance of OAP fund every month and let CPIRA committee notifies to their representing dept and their faculty on regular basis.

thank you for providing us this support

More

No

Add more money to the fund as it is unfortunate it is available until spent but not possible to predict how long a journal will take to review manuscripts

Nothing

Alexa has been very helpful and prompt in working with us. Appreciate that.

none

easier access to funds by faculty

None at this time.