



**Open Access Publication Fund Annual Report:**  
2019-2020

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## 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 2019-2020:

- The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds for 55 faculty, staff, and graduate students from 4 colleges/research organizations.
- The Open Access Publication Fund supported the publication fees for 15 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$27,000.

## 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 \$5,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year. Following high demand over the first few successful months of the program, the Library and the Office of the Provost committed an additional \$5,000 each, with an additional \$2,000 contributed from the Division of Research and Innovation, for a total of \$27,000 for the 2019-2020 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/c.php?g=89360&p=7028631>.
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 met, 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 \$3000 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 application declined, an explanatory email is sent detailing reasons and, where necessary, pointers to relevant resources provided in support of successful future application.
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 55 faculty, staff, and graduate students in support of publication fees for 15 articles for a total amount of funding distributed of \$27,000 in the 2019-2020 academic year. Awards averaged \$1 820 per application with a range of \$327 to \$3000.

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, 2019-2020.

College	Department	Number of Awards
Business	Decision Sciences & Economics	1
Education & Human Development	Kinesiology	3
Science & Engineering	Engineering	4
Science & Engineering	Life Sciences	3
Science & Engineering	Physical & Environmental	3
<hr/>		
Conrad Blucher Institute	Coastal Dynamics Lab Team	1

**Who was funded?**

Requested funds exceeded the amount funded. Only two applications were denied because they did not meet the fund’s guidelines for eligibility. The declined awards requested support to cover publication fees for ineligible hybrid Open Access journals that also charge subscriptions in addition to single article OA publication fees.

This fiscal year we continued to fully fund articles coauthored by researchers from multiple institution articles 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 2019. By mid-February 2020, the original \$15,000 contributed had been distributed. An additional \$12,000 was committed, which was fully distributed before the end of March 2020. The link to the application for funds has been replaced with an interest form to assist gauging the amount of additional funds requested by authors. As of the end of April 2020, authors submitted interest forms to cover their APCs totaling \$5,600. The popularity of the TAMU-CC authors publishing in OA journals is reflected in the fact that this year the total \$27,000 available was all encumbered by mid-March this year.

This is the first year of the Open Access Publication Fund. If the fund were to be repeated in 2020-2021, additional funding would be ideal.

Table 2. Top journals of papers supported by Open Access Publication Fund awards, 2019-2020.

Journal Name	Articles Funded (#)	SJR Rank	JCR Quartile	Categories
Scientific Reports (Nature)	3	1.41	Q1	Multidisciplinary
PLOS One	1	1.1	Q1	Multidisciplinary
Frontiers in... journals*	2	1.37	Q1	Multidisciplinary
MDPI journals*	6	0.73	Q2	Multidisciplinary
BMC Pediatrics	1	1.115	Q1	Pediatrics, Perinatology, and Child Health

Represents a family of journals from same publisher\*

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