

Open Access Publication Fund Annual Report:  
2023 - 2024

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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 2023 - 2024:

- The Open Access Publication Fund distributed funds for 51 faculty, staff, and graduate students from all 6 colleges as well as the Harte Research Institute for the Gulf of Mexico Studies, the Conrad Blucher Institute, and the Center for Water Supply Studies.
- The Open Access Publication Fund supported the publication fees for 25 articles and one book chapter for a total amount of funding distributed of \$52,624.69.

## 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 \$15,000 at the beginning of the fiscal year, for a total of \$45,000 for the 2022-2023 year. Due to changes in policies in the previous year, there was a rollover from the previous fiscal year, accounting for the difference of \$45,000 in funding but a total spending of \$52,624.69. Despite the additional funding from the previous year, funding was depleted before the end of March, just over halfway through the fiscal year. The library has offered an interest form to faculty since funds ran out, to record the amount of funding that would have been requested for the remainder of the year. Mid-way through June there have been 6 authors to complete the form, totaling over \$11,500 in APCs.

## 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 51 faculty, staff, and graduate students in support of publication fees for 25 articles and one book chapters for a total amount of funding distributed of \$52,624.69 in the 2023 - 2024 academic year. Awards averaged \$2,024.03 per application with a range of \$490 to \$3,000.

Open Access Publication Funds were distributed to faculty from 14 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, 2023 - 2024.

College	Department	Number of Awards
Business	Accounting, Finance, and Business Law	1
Business	Decision Sciences & Economics	4
Business	Management & Marketing	1
Education & Human Development	Curriculum Instruction and Learning Science	1
Education & Human Development	Kinesiology	1
Engineering & Computing Science	Computing Science	6
Liberal Arts	Psychology and Sociology	2
Liberal Arts	Social Sciences	1
Nursing & Health Sciences	Health Sciences	1
Nursing & Health Sciences	Nursing Practice	3
Science	Life Sciences	3
Science	Mathematics & Statistics	2
Science	Physical & Environmental	7

Research Institute	Number of Awards
Conrad Blucher Institute	2
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies	6
Center for Water Supply Studies	4

## Funding Challenges

Despite a rollover from the previous fiscal year which resulted in additional funding for the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year, all funds were allocated before the end of March, with five months remaining in the fiscal year. Between end of March and mid-June, the library has received six interest forms from authors, totaling over \$11,500 in additional funding requests. As the fiscal year does not end until August 31, the library anticipates additional requests from authors before the new fiscal year. Despite additional funding from a rollover, funds were depleted just over halfway through the fiscal year and because of this an increase in funding is requested for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year: \$20,000 from each of the three funders.

Table 2. Publishers for 2023 – 2024 fiscal year:

Publisher Name	Article/Book Chapter Funded (#)	Book Title or Journal Name
BMC	2	Pregnancy and Childbirth; Public Health
Elsevier	7	Data in Brief, Ecological Indicators; Helyion; Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation
Frontiers	1	Frontiers in Education
Gavin Journals	1	International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research
IEEE	1	IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing
IGI Global	1	Journal of Global Information Management
InTech Open	1	GMO Foods and Our Health
MDPI	5	Behavioral Sciences; Remote Sensing; Risk and Financial Management; Sensors
PLOS	1	PLOS ONE
Science	1	Science Advances
Springer Nature	2	Biogeochemistry; Scientific Reports
Taylor and Francis	2	Health Equity; Regional Studies, Regional Science;
Wiley	1	Marine and Coastal Fisheries