Open Access Publishing Fund

# PURPOSE

The purpose of the Wits Open Access Publishing Fund is to increase broad public access to the research output of Wits academics by encouraging the Wits research community to take advantage of Gold Open Access (OA) publishing opportunities. This can promote progress and knowledge and, with the opportunity for greater readership, increase the impact of Wits research output. The Library and University Research Office are collaborating to jointly fund and promote the publishing of OA journal articles.

The Library is repurposing a portion of the Information Resources budget to provide eligible researchers at the University with financial assistance, i.e. two-thirds (2/3) of the Article Processing Charge (APCs) levied by many Open Access publishers, up to a maximum of R 30 000. Authors can apply for support from this Fund when other funding sources (such as research grants, where APCs are often allowable expenses) are unavailable.

Financial assistance will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis until the funding for a given year is exhausted. No additional funds will be made available until the following year.

The Library will administer the fund in close collaboration with the Faculties. All works published with the support of the Open Access Publishing Fund will be deposited in the Wits Institutional Repository. An Annual Report including the use of funds, recipients by Faculty, and publication details will be compiled for information.

The Library will provide advice, guidance and support in the identification of eligible Open Access journals and the fund application process. A list of the Department of Higher Education and Training accredited Gold Open Access journals will be made available. Funding for future years will be dependent on the number of applications received in the previous year, available funds, and evaluations of the funding project.

# SUPPORT CRITERIA

**Author eligibility**

* Any current Wits staff member.
* Early career researchers (i.e., postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, if co-authored by a Wits staff member), and researchers who have been employed at Wits for at least two years before the date of applying for funding.
* In the event of co-authorship with a non-Wits author, the Fund will only support two-thirds of the pro-rated APC portion of the Wits author, up to a maximum of R 30 000.
* Affiliation with Wits University must be included in the published article.

**Journal eligibility**

* The article must be submitted to a DHET accredited Gold Open Access journal in the current year. This means that the peer-reviewed article is not a hybrid Open Access journal (i.e. a closed subscription journal with an option to publish an Open Access article), is available with immediate unrestricted online access (i.e. no embargo period), and at no cost to the end user.
* Books and other publications are not covered by this Fund, but book chapters are included in this project.
* This fund covers only fees associated with Open Access publishing and does not cover additional charges beyond the basic APC. If there are such charges, then these have to be met by the author.
* Articles must be accepted for publication before applying to the Fund. Requests for funding, together with written proof of acceptance, should be made immediately after an article is accepted for publication.
* The journal/publisher archiving policy should allow the deposit of the published PDF version of the article in the Wits Institutional Repository.

**Publisher eligibility**

* The publisher of the Open Access journal must be a member of the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](https://oaspa.org/membership/members/) (OASPA) and adhere to OASPA's Code of Conduct.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

* Confirm that the Open Access Publishing Fund has funds available before committing to payment of an APC. (Email bongi.mphuti@wits.ac.za or Tel: (011) 717-1978)
* Obtain the application form from bongi.mphuti@wits.ac.za or Tel: (011) 717-1978) or download it from: <https://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication/APCFund>
* Apply for funding upon written acceptance of your article and before the work is published by sending the completed application form to bongi.mphuti@wits.ac.za. An author may also apply if the work has already been published, but the publication date must be in the same year as the application for APC funding.
* The author must first settle the APCs directly with the publisher and must then provide proof of payment in Rands and the **correct Faculty-approved AKF account code** when applying for APC assistance. **The Application must be signed by the applicant and the Faculty Business/Finance Manager before being sent to the Library**. The Library funding contribution of two-thirds of the APC (up to a maximum of R 30 000) will be reimbursed directly to the Faculty/School, which will refund to the author. The APC Fund will not pay publishers or authors directly.
* The author’s original invoice from the publisher for payment of APCs must be submitted to bongi.mphuti@wits.ac.za within three (3) months of written approval of the application for payment of the APC.
* Documents to be submitted to bongi.mphuti@wits.ac.za for APC assistance are: -

 the completed application form (with Faculty/School AKF account code), publisher’s invoice and written confirmation of publication, or the first page of the published article, and proof of payment in Rand value.

# GLOSSARY

**Gold Open Access**: Gold Open Access journals provide immediate free and full open access to all of its articles on the publisher’s website.

**Article Processing Charge (APC):** The fee that some publishers of Open Access journals charge to publish articles. The reason given by publishers for charging APCs is that they do so in order to cover the costs of publishing material.

**Hybrid journals**: Hybrid journals provide open access to specific articles where an Article Processing Charge (APC) has been paid in an otherwise closed subscription journal.

**Embargo period:** When an author decides to deposit their research outputs in an Open Access repository they need to comply with any embargo period a publisher might have in place. In practice this means that the author submits the research article to the Wits Institutional Repository but only the metadata will be made openly accessible during the embargo period. Once the embargo period expires, the full-text article is released to the open web. Embargo periods vary between a few months up to 36 months.