

# The Importance of Publication Costs in Unsub and OpenAlex

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OpenAlex

[openalex.org](https://openalex.org)

# OpenAlex

A Scientific Knowledge Graph

OR

An open & comprehensive index of scholarly works, citations, authors, institutions, and more

# OpenAlex Entity Types

- Authors: ~240 million
- Works: ~236 million
- Venues: ~108k
- Institutions: ~124k
- Concepts: ~60k

# Recent talks on OpenAlex

[NIH VideoCast - Introducing OpenAlex: an open and complete index of the global research system](#)

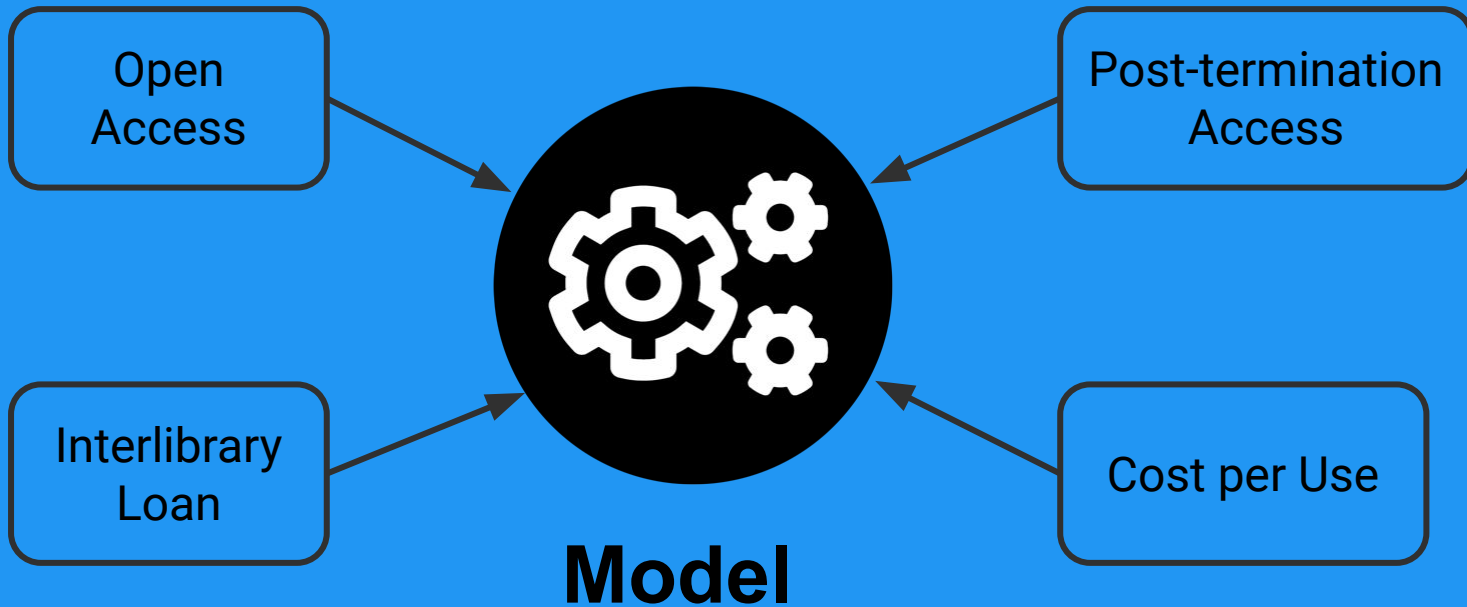
[W13: 2nd Workshop on Scientific Knowledge Representation, Discovery, and Assessment \(Sci-K 2022\)](#)



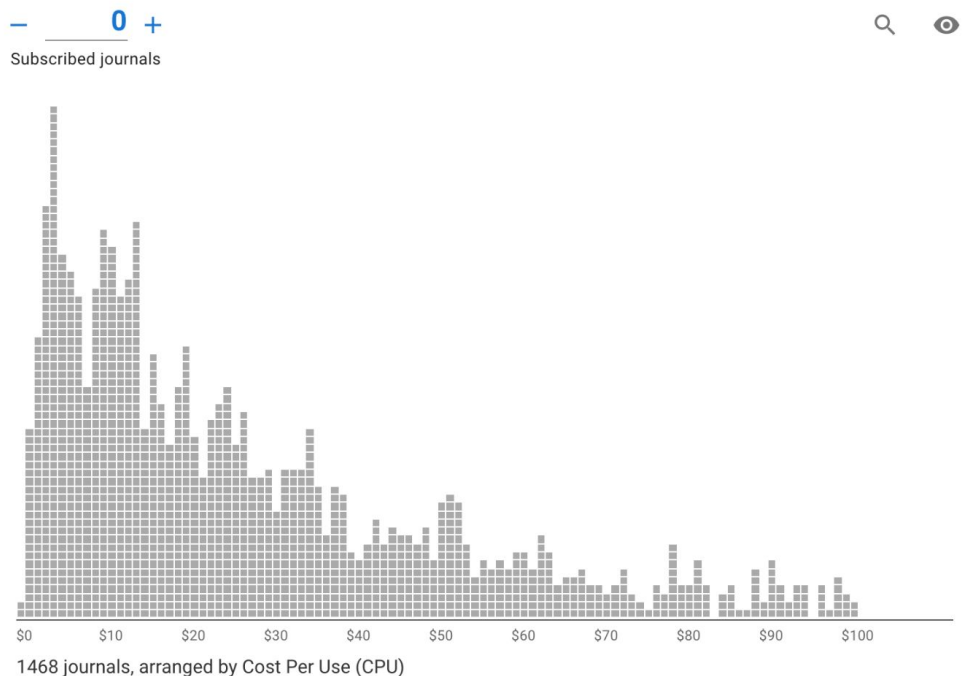
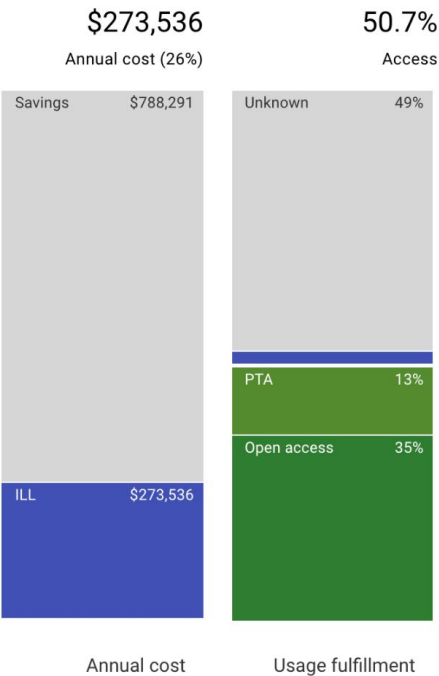
**unsub**

**unsub.org**

**What factors  
to consider?**







# Costs in Unsub: Subscription Prices

- Specifically: a-la-carte, or title-by-title price -> Cost Per Use
- Crucial to Unsub - journals excluded w/o a subscription price
- Until a month ago:
  - we collected publicly available subscription prices for the big 5 publishers (Elsevier, Wiley, SAGE, T&F, Springer Nature)
  - & support user price uploads
- Unsub now supports all publishers -> users uploads only

# Costs in Unsub: Collecting Subscription Prices

- Subscription prices are sometimes available publicly
- Publishers
  - Big 5: subscription prices easier
  - Other publishers: not so easy\*
- Currencies are tricky
  - Priced differently in different countries or simple rate conversion?
- Subscription prices aren't something librarians already had
- But little trouble getting prices from publishers



# Costs in Unsub: APCs

- Unsub now
  - APC report for big 5 publishers
  - APCs are not incorporated into the forecast
  - APCs are attributed via “[fractional authorship](#)” - not ideal
  - Not feasible for us to track APCs across all publishers
  - APCs were difficult to collect\*
- Unsub future
  - Incorporate APCs into the forecast
  - With APCs, Unsub can be used for classic Big Deals & R&P / P&R deals
  - APCs come exclusively from openAPC/etc.
  - Unsub manages less APC related infrastructure

# Costs in Unsub: openAPC

- A future ideal workflow for Unsub:
  - Unsub users contribute APCs to openAPC
  - Unsub queries and pulls in APCs from openAPC
  - Unsub forecasts incorporate APCs, allowing users to evaluate R&P / P&R deals
  - Maybe allow users to upload APCs directly to Unsub if they don't want to share to openAPC
- Benefits
  - Transparency
  - Estimate APCs when APCs missing?
  - More open data (e.g., APCs) = more questions can be answered
- Negatives
  - May not want to share data
  - May not be able to invest time required to share data

# Costs in OpenAlex

- OpenAlex does not currently have any cost data
- We'd like to add to OpenAlex:
  - Article-level APCs
  - Journal-level APCs
- No timeline on this
- Would enable answering interesting questions
  - e.g. Do works that cost more to publish have more authors?

# Wrap up: Costs in Unsub & OpenAlex

- Unsub can likely drive many users to contribute to openAPC & Unsub and it's users will benefit greatly
- Perhaps subscription prices can be managed outside Unsub as well?
- OpenAlex can enable answering so many questions by combining costs with other data (authors, institutions, works, etc.)
- Questions:
  - How do we convince institutions it's worth contributing their APC data?
  - For those articles/institutions missing APCs, are there best practices for their estimation?



# get in touch!

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