

# **openCost: Navigating Cost Transparency**

Tuesday 17 March 2026 - Thursday 19 March 2026

## **Book of Abstracts**



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## 3 Minute Madness / 4

## Charting the library systems landscape including OA infrastructures

**Authors:** Silke Weisheit<sup>1</sup>; Vicky Schirmer<sup>1</sup>; Jessica Hubrich<sup>2</sup>; Johann Rolschewski<sup>3</sup>

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The working group ‘Systemlandschaft E-Ressourcen’ aims to achieve a better understanding of data exchange processes in the management of electronic resources (including e-journals, e-books, and databases). This is accomplished by systematically collecting, analyzing, and documenting data flows, including cost-related data, to enable academic libraries to visualize workflows, identify dependencies, and increase transparency and efficiency in managing resources. As part of this effort, the working group has developed a map for navigating complex systems and data flows, including cost-related information.

The working group was established by the Electronic Journals Library (EZB), the AG Verbundsysteme (AGV) and the Zeitschriftendatenbank (ZDB). Cooperative structures, optimized data flows and uniform terminology and formats are intended to facilitate the daily work of academic libraries in the future, as well as systematic evaluations for a wide variety of purposes, such as university controlling, cost transparency or the Open Access transformation.

To this end, the working group is first bringing together as many relevant public service providers, institutions and projects as possible with the aim of developing a system map to visualize the data exchange processes between library systems. A questionnaire was developed in order to describe all data flows, including those involving cost information, between relevant systems in as structured and neutral manner as possible. The survey results have been analyzed and the system map now lists 71 systems and 164 data flows.

The poster shows how useful the system map can be as a tool for understanding complex relationships, such as data exchange processes between library systems, enabling exploratory work with data. With a focus on Open Access infrastructures, the poster explains how the system map can support the planning of projects or the assessment of effort, risks and impacts when making system adjustments.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in scientific publishing

## 3 Minute Madness / 5

## Recording Publication of Costs at Research Performing Organizations in Germany

**Authors:** Dorothea Strecker<sup>None</sup>; Heinz Pampel<sup>1</sup>; Jonas Höfting<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

The poster presents the results of a survey conducted in 2024 as part of the project OA Datenpraxis [1], funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The survey examined how data on publication costs are currently recorded at research performing institutions in Germany. 583 represen-

tatives of universities, universities of applied sciences, institutes of non-university research organizations (Fraunhofer Society, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association, and Max Planck Society), and federal departmental research institutions were invited to participate in the survey. 258 (44.3%) completed the questionnaire. The survey is the first comprehensive survey on recording publication costs in Germany.

[1] <https://oa-datenpraxis.de>

**ORCID:**

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Technical and organizational workflows for dealing with publication costs

**3 Minute Madness / 6**

## **CODA: A Customizable Database Application for Managing Open Access Publication Costs**

**Authors:** Linda Achilles<sup>None</sup>; Sven Marcus<sup>None</sup>

As open access (OA) publishing becomes increasingly prevalent, research institutions face growing demands for funding and financing transparency and sustainable organization and documentation in publication funding. Traditional approaches often rely on manually maintained spreadsheets, prone to human error, difficult to scale, and lack a standardized structure, making accurate evaluation and reporting of publication costs a major challenge.

To address these issues, we developed CODA (Customizable Open Access Database Application) as part of the BMFTR-funded project ADoRe-OA. Unlike excel spreadsheets, often used for publication documentation cases, CODA is a web application that offers features modelling key entities such as publications, funding requests, contracts, and invoices as well as their relationships. Therefore, CODA enables various user groups within the same institution to collaboratively manage the entire OA funding lifecycle —from request evaluation and invoice processing to comprehensive cost monitoring and reporting within one unified platform.

To ensure that CODA allows seamless interaction with other tools and data integration in the OA space, it was built to rely on established standards like the COAR Resource Types for publication types and the openCost schema for reporting.

Furthermore, CODA is largely customizable to institutional needs: journal or publisher blocklists and automatic eligibility checks (e.g., Directory of Open Access Journals [DOAJ] inclusion) support the funding decision process; subject areas and publication types can be flexibly included or excluded; local currencies are supported by automatic conversion; and freely definable labels can be used to reflect institutional workflows. Already existing data (e.g., past funding requests or invoices) can easily be imported to create a consolidated and sustainable OA data environment.

Although currently still under active development, CODA aims to offer a low-threshold, open-source solution for institutions seeking to optimize OA cost management while aligning with emerging transparency standards.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in scientific publishing

## 3 Minute Madness / 7

## The Cost of Funding: Drafting a policy to promote financial support for Open Science —The Case of the University of Liège Library.

**Authors:** Adrien Mathy<sup>1</sup>; Christophe Dony<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *University of Liège*

For over two decades, the University of Liège Library has provided financial support to various Open Science initiatives. The decisions underlying this financial support are often made on a case-by-case basis. However, to make this support transparent and sustainable, it is essential to establish clear guidelines for selecting what open initiatives or infrastructures to support and the extent of this financial support.

We therefore worked on drafting a common policy, looking first at eligibility criteria. To do so, we examined two distinct existing tools: “Infrafinder” for open infrastructures and the survey tool “How Equitable is it?” for open-access publishing programs or initiatives. While these frameworks are useful for establishing criteria (such as governance models, technical attributes, etc.), drafting a common policy entails a series of trade-offs and challenges that go beyond these tools.

One of these challenges includes defining both what criteria to use and the relative weight that can be assigned to each criterion, especially as the perception and relative importance of criteria may vary significantly among stakeholders. Another challenge is the articulation of these eligibility criteria with more local-oriented or institutional needs and expectations (e.g. the language(s) of outputs or infrastructures, their disciplinary or context-specific nature, etc.).

Finally, an ongoing question remains how to determine budget allocation. One possibility currently hinted at is to equate the total budget for our policy with the yearly amount of APCs paid by our institution to hybrid journals, which can be found on the OpenAPC platform as a result of the library’s monitoring efforts.

Our poster details some of the steps and challenges underlying our ongoing policy-drafting to promote financial support for Open Science. One of our takeaways is the need to envision such a policy with clear and transparent guidelines and criteria comparable to those found in a collection development policy.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Sustainable financing and budgeting of open access infrastructures

## 3 Minute Madness / 8

## Pursuing the goal of cost transparency alongside openCost: open-access.network, Transform2Open, OA Datenpraxis and Open Access Scenario Analysis

**Author:** Marc Lange<sup>1</sup>

**Co-authors:** Lea Maria Ferguson<sup>1</sup>; Johannes Schneider<sup>1</sup>; Paul Schultze-Motel<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Helmholtz Association, Helmholtz Open Science Office*

Several projects in the field of open access transformation share the common goal with openCost of creating cost transparency by focussing on interrelated topics and tasks such as funding, financial sustainability, budgeting, monitoring, appropriate workflows and tools, networking, and promoting

exchange. Four projects are particularly closely linked: Since 2019, open-access.network has created an information and networking platform on the topic of open access, organised workshops on the information budget, has published several resources on open access funding, and has launched focus groups to connect stakeholders and initiatives and improve their exchange. Since 2023, Transform2Open supports transformational activities at research institutions in Germany by improving and developing cost monitoring mechanisms, promoting overarching information budgets, developing international criteria, optimizing workflows, promoting financial transparency, and developing competency profiles. Close cooperation and several in-depth consultations of openCost and Transform2Open pursue especially the streamlining of data schemata and data transfer to other systems. Since 2024, OA Datenpraxis focuses on promoting and establishing processes and procedures for sovereign data practice in shaping the open access transformation by improving data-driven administration, developing standards for collaborative data practices, minimizing dependencies on commercial data sources, and improving respective information services. A recent addition, having started in 2026, the goal of OASA (Open Access Scenario Analysis) is to analyse financial development perspectives in the open access domain and to assess their potential impacts –to be realised through systematic scenario analyses, various participatory formats, the development of recommendations, and transfer activities supporting operational actions at academic institutions. The poster presents the four projects and shows their interrelations as well as future collaboration avenues with openCost and other relevant initiatives and actors.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Open access projects related to cost and budget issues

**3 Minute Madness / 9**

## **The world is indeed full of publishing and reading fees: Cost management at Charité –Universitätsmedizin Berlin**

**Authors:** Marcel Wrzesinski<sup>1</sup>; Esther Asef<sup>1</sup>; Manuela Gregor<sup>1</sup>; Maja Kreft<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Medizinische Bibliothek, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin*

Especially in the context of the open access transformation and the associated shift from subscription costs to publication costs, transparent monitoring of available funds and expenses regarding information provision and publishing activities are paramount for scientific institutions. It is an important instrument to track and regulate cost developments. In Germany there have been several recommendations for implementing such a cost management. It is also a requirement to get funding for a publication funds by the German Research Foundation.

As one of the largest university hospitals in Europe, Charité –Universitätsmedizin Berlin publishes over 6000 journal articles per year. Charité has joined the DEAL agreements with SpringerNature, Elsevier and Wiley and is now part of additional transformation contracts with other publishers. With its publication fund (composed of DFG-third party funding and internal budget resources), Charité Medical Library subsidizes more than 1000 publications each year.

Given its complexity, establishing the “information budget” is challenging for research institutions of all sizes. But with the high number of publications at Charité, the development of a seamless workflow to document all necessary information is especially important. The poster provides an overview of Charité’s cost management, the workflows, the cooperation between the open access and acquisition team, as well as cooperation with further Charité departments (such as finance and controlling). Furthermore, the poster outlines recorded metadata, the tools and resources used, as well as the first strategies to successfully monitor cost information with the use of scripts.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Technical and organizational workflows for dealing with publication costs

**3 Minute Madness / 10**

## **Cost Monitoring @ University of Oldenburg**

**Author:** Paul Tillmann Haas<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *University of Oldenburg*

The systematic recording, evaluation and management of publication costs is becoming increasingly important in the context of increasingly complex open access transformation processes. At the University of Oldenburg, a central publication cost monitoring system and consolidated licence recording in Ex Libris Alma have been established for this purpose. The poster presents the structure, implementation and initial experiences of this integrated workflow.

The focus is on the mapping and use of attributes of the open-cost metadata schema within Alma. The model-based anchoring of relevant metadata –such as cost types, funding sources, OA typologies or transformation contracts –enables a granular analysis of publication-related expenses. Structured recording in Alma forms the basis for transparent, reproducible and institution-wide consistent cost monitoring.

A central component of the project is the organisational bundling of all procurement and billing processes for publication-related costs in the media processing department of the Oldenburg University Library. APCs, BPCs, costs from transformation agreements, membership fees and other publication-related (services) are recorded there in a standardised manner. This centralisation not only improves internal process reliability and efficiency, but also creates valid data sets for strategic management decisions and reporting.

The poster shows how the technical and procedural integration was implemented in Alma, which metadata fields and workflows were adapted or newly introduced, and which challenges arose in the interaction between system logic, financial management and metadata standardisation. Finally, prospects for further development are outlined.

**ORCID:**

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Technical and organizational workflows for dealing with publication costs

**3 Minute Madness / 11**

## **From Invoices to Dashboards : technical and organisational workflows with Alma and self-developed platforms**

**Author:** Eike Spielberg<sup>1</sup>

**Co-authors:** Kerstin Ponten <sup>1</sup>; Sarah Kritzler <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Universitätsbibliothek Duisburg-Essen*

Achieving cost transparency in scholarly publishing depends on consistently recording and reporting expenditure data across institutional systems. This poster presents a practice oriented overview

of how publication related costs can be managed within the cloud-based library management system Alma (Ex libris) to support auditability, reporting, and downstream reuse. We further integrate Alma with other self-developed platforms such as the MyCoRe-based university bibliography and our platforms Lib-intel and insights that comprise a range of interconnected services that build upon and extend Alma's functionality.

The open-access-module of Lib-intel enables the ingestion of Dashboard Reports and PABA invoices to create corresponding orders and invoices directly in Alma. Lib-Intel acts as a versatile data-hub that links Alma with internal systems and external sources such as Crossref and OpenAlex for meta-data enrichment and identifier reconciliation (e.g., DOI, ISSN), and interfaces with the university hospital's financial systems to enable a consolidated view of expenditures across institutional boundaries.

We further show, how we plan to implement our dashboard-system insights to monitor costs and publications and how to feed our cost data into the MyCoRe-based university bibliography in order to enable OpenCost compatible reporting via the OAI interface, thus enabling FAIR publication cost reporting in alignment with emerging national and international standards. Finally, we will discuss how the implementation of Lib-intel has supported process optimization and fostered organizational development within library departments and cross-functional teams.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Technical and organizational workflows for dealing with publication costs

**3 Minute Madness / 12**

## **How to create transparency when funding Diamond OA: The Diamond Funding Navigator and KOALA**

**Authors:** Anita Eppelin<sup>1</sup>; Fabian Hennig<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Technische Informationsbibliothek (TIB)*

When evaluating models for the financing of Diamond Open Access publications, the costs, their appropriateness and transparency are closely interdependent topics. More importantly, these are highly relevant criteria for institutions choosing to financially support Diamond Open Access publications. Consequently, the topic has its separate section in KOALA's Requirements that apply to publications benefitting from consortial funding via KOALA.

For libraries, publications represent costs, and thus they need detailed information on the publications; that entails affiliations of authors and localized statistics, as well as costs (current and upcoming). To facilitate these analyses on the part of the institutions, TIB provides the Diamond Funding Navigator, a free website providing a comprehensive overview of consortial offers like KOALA - and currently more than a dozen other offers. General information about the offers is supplemented by data on the output of the publications supposed to be funded. This data is retrieved by OpenAlex and queries can be easily customized. At the same time, TIB encourages a holistic view on publications that doesn't rely solely on apparent (and potentially only short-term) financial cost, but also opportunity costs and non-financial criteria. The transparency that the Diamond Funding Navigator provides in a variety of dimensions helps to appreciate these aspects as well.

In our short talk and poster, we present findings and insights from the KOALA projects and the ongoing KOALA service at TIB with a focus on the topic of cost transparency. In addition, we show how the Diamond Funding Navigator can support libraries in their workflows for decision-making on Diamond OA financing and increase cost transparency.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in diamond open access

**3 Minute Madness / 13****On the Road to an Information Budget****Authors:** Anna Rudaev<sup>1</sup>; Isabo Gerstner<sup>1</sup>; Serina Latzko<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> *KIM Hohenheim*

At the University of Hohenheim, a comprehensive technical and organisational workflow and cost-management framework for scholarly publishing is being developed, which simultaneously forms the basis of a university-wide information budget. The central instrument is the publication fund established in 2024, which is administratively managed by the Communication, Information and Media Centre (KIM). A standardised digital application workflow with clear funding criteria ensures efficient processing, with tiered funding caps for articles, “top journals” and monographs. All funded publications are recorded in the Open Access Database (OADB) developed at KIM, including unique identifiers, invoices and publication metadata, and are reported to OpenAPC according to a standardised guideline.

In parallel, KIM is building an integrated information budget based on the shell model proposed by Mittermaier (2022). Expenditures and funding sources for publication and acquisition costs are centrally aggregated. The introduction and further differentiation of cost accounts, access to central and decentralized accounts (in cooperation with the Finance Department), as well as the stepwise digitisation of invoicing workflows aim to establish cost transparency for APCs, PAR fees, transformative agreements, traditional acquisitions, document delivery and other cost types. The OADB is being expanded into the central cost-management system, into which currently dispersed data (e.g. from SAP, the library system, and Excel spreadsheets) are migrated and integrated via interfaces. A comprehensive linkage with the institutional repository hohPublica and the university bibliography (via DOI and ORCID) is planned in order to establish a consistent, queryable information budget that supports monitoring, reporting (including to OpenAPC and the OA Monitor), and the strategic governance of publication funding.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Technical and organizational workflows for dealing with publication costs

**3 Minute Madness / 14****Cost transparency in the OLEcon project: sustainable financing of Diamond Open Access journals****Author:** Ronja Kuhlwilm<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> *ZBW - Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, Kiel/Hamburg*

Open Library Economics (OLEcon) is an initiative of the ZBW Leibniz Information Centre for Economics. OLEcon offers journal editors support to publish in Diamond Open Access by either helping them to flip their journal or, in the case of a new publication, to appear directly in Diamond Open

Access. Existing open access journals can also apply for OLEcon funding. Cost transparency plays an important role for OLEcon.

First of all, in the application of journals for funding. Journal editors and the publishing service providers have to make their cost structure transparent to be able to apply for funding. The journals that receive funding through the OLEcon consortium are also scholar-led, and the criteria that these journals must fulfil will be reviewed again after three years.

Second, OLEcon makes the financing model for the journals that are funded by OLEcon transparent. The financing of the journals currently comes from three different sources: A financing consortium, ZBW's information budget and, from 2023 to 2026, from project funding from the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR).

The main part of the financing is achieved via a community model. Different institutions worldwide contribute together to the financing of Diamond Open Access. The co-financing in the consortium is renewed each year. Institutions can join the consortium in annual pledging rounds. The amount of money that institutions contribute to the financing of Diamond Open Access is determined by the number of students and academic staff. Overall, there are three different tiers.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in diamond open access

**3 Minute Madness / 15**

## Implementation of the openCost metadata schema in DSpace7

**Authors:** Jonas Mirbeth<sup>None</sup>; Simon Eiberger<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Universität Ulm*

The openCost project is developing a technical infrastructure that will make publication costs freely accessible via interfaces and formats. In the context of the open access transformation, this will enable greater cost transparency.

Due to its research profile (medicine and STEM subjects), Ulm University's publication output has largely been converted to a publication-based logic, and researchers are therefore dependent on extensive OA funding opportunities. The supply situation at the university in OA transformation agreements (publish-and-read models) is currently good and enables an open access share of 75%. In particular, Ulm University benefits from the developed openCost schema, as the issue of cost transparency has gained importance in the course of the OA transformation. For this purpose, a crosswalk for a metadata (sub)set following the openCost standard was implemented in our live DSpace instance and linked to the relevant collections. As a result, the following metadata (DOI, ROR, publication type, cost information, and funding year) are now transferred to the OAI-PMH interface, enabling machine-readable access.

To this end, the existing metadata fields were supplemented with fields for cost information and the funding year, and a filter function was added to limit the export to funded publications.

The main aim was to have current and automatically updated cost information linked to our local Electronic Journal Library (EZB) records, offered by OpenAPC. This results in increased efficiency in our internal workflows and, at the same time, ensures seamless exchange of cost information between relevant information systems.

Our code represents an initial, prototypical implementation that maps DSpace's internal metadata schema to a minimal openCost implementation. It serves as a starting point for further development and will be gradually expanded in future versions to include additional functions, such as the display of individual transformation contracts.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in scientific publishing

**3 Minute Madness / 16**

## **APC trends for gold and hybrid OA uncovered: Analysis of an unpublished, longitudinal dataset of list-price APCs for 7.000 hybrid journals collected by the oa.finder**

**Author:** Nina Schönfelder<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Universität Bielefeld*

Since 2021 the oa.finder displays information on list-price APCs for around 5.000 pure OA journals as derived from the DOAJ and more than 6.000 hybrid journals that come from an own longitudinal data collection. The later increased over time adding more publishers and hybrid journals to the collection. All APCs are converted at the historical spot rates to Euro. This unpublished data set—observing list-price APCs of currently 7.000 hybrid journals from thirteen traditional publishers, among them the big ones as Wiley, Springer Nature, Elsevier as well as small publishers like John Benjamins Publishing and Duncker & Humblot—together with the DOAJ data can be used to analyze price trends in the OA publishing market.

Combining the APC information with the article output on journal level derived from Scopus, makes it possible to calculate annually chain-linked Laspeyres-type indices—by essential the same method as Eurostat calculates the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP). The results are two sector-specific price indices showing the aggregate APC changes in scientific publishing. The interpretation of the results differs for pure OA journals and hybrid journals. The price index for pure OA APCs can be understand as a descriptive measure; the price index for hybrid OA APCs as a counterfactual analysis: How much would have the prices increased if all articles had been published open access without applying read & publish agreements? The poster shows the price trends and compares the rates with the HICP for the euro area.

The Bielefeld University Library has developed the oa.finder as part of the project open-access.network. The web service contains information on around 57,000 international journals as well as information on over 80 scientific publishers for OA books in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

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**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in scientific publishing

**3 Minute Madness / 17**

## Transparency into completeness of cost (components) VERSUS transparency on how a seller's price is built

**Author:** Yvonne Campfens<sup>1</sup>

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Whenever two people or businesses make a deal, the money one spends becomes the money the other earns: your cost is someone else's revenue. So, if you buy something for \$100, that's  $\backslash 100$  of income for the seller. When it breaks down: what part covers materials, labor, rent, or profit.

True transparency takes understanding on both sides: prices aren't just numbers, they include risks, overhead, and effort. True transparency is complex. Even if a seller shows cost details, it can be hard to interpret:

- Which costs are direct (materials, labor)?
- Which are shared (marketing, R&D)?
- How are risks priced in?

So, transparency helps, but it doesn't always tell the full story.

To make it even more challenging... How to get cost transparency if there is no deal, if there is no seller's price? Think of the Diamond OA (Open Access) model that provides research to readers and authors for free, with no fees for either side.

Our poster will show how the data dictionary of the NISO Recommended Practice for OA Business Processes deals with this.

**ORCID:**

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

Cost transparency in scientific publishing

**3 Minute Madness / 18**

## Towards Integrated Resource Accounting in NFDI

**Authors:** Alexander Wagner<sup>1</sup>; Alexander Walender<sup>2</sup>; Dirk von Suchodoletz<sup>3</sup>; Frank Förster<sup>4</sup>; Gernot Deinzer<sup>5</sup>; Harry Enke<sup>6</sup>; Marcel Nellesen<sup>7</sup>; Matthias Bonn<sup>8</sup>; Peter Gietz<sup>9</sup>; See-Ling Wong<sup>10</sup>

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After nearly five years of development, the NFDI as a whole, along with its participating consortia and services, has reached a level of maturity that now calls for sustainable service design. A key example of this evolution is the progress made in the area of Authentication (ensuring the identity of users accessing resources) and Authorization (controlling which users may access specific

resources). Within the Base4NFDI framework, this has been advanced through the IAM4NFDI service. The solutions build on existing Community Authentication and Authorization Infrastructures (CAAI), reflecting the growing collaboration among the NFDI consortia. To further integrate services across providers, establish a foundation for offering and accessing services, and enable the long-term development of specialized providers, we require an overview of individual resource consumption.

This sparked the idea of complementing IAM4NFDI with work on accounting. The latter refers to the logging of resource usage within a federation and has ties to Authentication and Authorization—completing the “AAA” framework (with Accounting as the third A).

Our key motivations for introducing federated accounting include:

- Fostering cross-consortia cooperation in service provisioning,
- Avoiding over reliance on commercial hyperscalers,
- Enabling cost recovery, fair resource allocation, and usage transparency,
- Creating the foundation for a flexible and sustainable service marketplace.

Accounting is already a topic of interest in several contexts, including EOSC Future and EOSC EU Nodes, AARC, bwCloud, Helmholtz (HiFIS) frameworks and initiatives.

Coordination within NFDI is crucial to prevent fragmentation and overhead, and to ensure that smaller user groups can easily access essential resources backed by core funding. Therefore, a working group has been formed to evaluate current solutions and aims to propose and implement a federated, NFDI-wide accounting solution as part of a Base4NFDI project. The recent DFG call for storage systems also highlights the necessity of a coordinated and overarching concept for accounting within the NFDI.

ORCID:

Choose a theme for your abstract::

Open Science Infrastructures / 19

## Enhancing Open Science: SCOAP3's New Evaluation Mechanism for Publishers

Author: Anne Gentil-Beccot<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CERN

For over a decade, the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics—a unique collaboration involving over three thousand libraries, key funding agencies, research centers and intergovernmental organizations across in 47 countries—has successfully transitioned key journals in High-Energy Physics to Open Access, while removing financial barriers for both readers and authors.

For the 2025-2027 contractual period (Phase 4), SCOAP3 has introduced an innovative mechanism designed to enhance Open Science practices. This new system features an annual assessment of critical Open Science elements, such as the implementation of persistent identifiers (e.g., ORCID, ROR), metadata completeness, the availability of open peer review, compliance with accessibility standards, and alignment with community-driven community values. In this unprecedented mechanism, publishers' financial compensation is adjusted based on their performance in these areas, incentivizing continuous improvement in their open access offerings.

This presentation will provide an overview of this novel evaluation and incentive system, highlighting how SCOAP3 is promoting a more transparent and sustainable open access publishing ecosystem, where costs are more closely tied to the services provided by the publishers to the community. It will also present the results of the first evaluations in 2025 and 2026, offering insights into publisher practices and the broader implications of this approach for the Open Science community.

ORCID:

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

**Diamond Open Access / 20**

## **Early Considerations on Cost Modelling for Diamond Open Access: The JQuant Project**

**Author:** Aldo Rampioni<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Sissa Medialab*

This contribution discusses JQuant, a Diamond Open Access journal in quantum science that is currently under development, as an early and non-exhaustive case for examining ex-ante approaches to cost estimation and modelling in non-APC-based scholarly publishing. The analysis is grounded in projected workflows and preliminary cost assumptions and reflects an ongoing design process rather than an established operational model.

JQuant is being developed as a community-governed Diamond Open Access journal and aims to establish a sustainable framework for open-access publishing in quantum science. The project already benefits from the institutional support of CERN, SISSA and ICTP. Its envisaged funding approach relies on institutional and funder support that directly sustains peer-review and editorial activities, with the objective of allocating resources to functions that are central to scholarly quality, accountability, and trust.

Attention is given to the current limits of cost vocabularies when applied to Diamond Open Access and to the open questions that arise when modelling costs at an early stage of journal development.

**ORCID:**

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

**Open Science Infrastructures / 21**

## **Tracking publishing system costs at scale using Open Research Information**

**Author:** Cameron Neylon<sup>None</sup>

Understanding the full costs of scholarly publishing across national and regional systems remains a challenge. What information is available is generally limited and the best data is usually confidential and private. The argument for Open Research Information is that the benefits of sharing outweigh the risks. We sought to examine this by building a large scale model of costs and savings in the scholarly publishing system using public information.

Combining bibliographic resources including OpenAlex and OpenAIRE with cost information at the level of APCs (DOAJ, OpenAPC, datasets of APC list prices) and agreements (eg ESAC) we can estimate the overall profile of publishing costs and use these to model the development of future costs under various sets of assumptions.

In this talk I will show how a national, regional and global model of publishing costs can be built and critically examine which countries offer the best-case studies of providing Open Research Information allowing us to validate this model.

**Cameron Neylon:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0068-716X>

Cameron Neylon has been involved in advocacy for Open Access and Open Research for over 20 years. From 2015-2024 he was Professor of Research Communications at Curtin University where



he co-founded and co-lead the Curtin Open Knowledge Initiative. He is a Steering Board member of CoARA, the Steering Group for the Barcelona Declaration and the advisory board of Open Citations. He was a co-author of the Principles for Open Scholarly Infrastructure, the altmetrics manifesto, the books Open Knowledge Institutions, Reading Peer Review, Supporting Research Communications: a guide and Open Scholarship and the Need for Collective Action.

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## Diamond Open Access / 22

### Collective Funding for Diamond Open Access: Insights from the Open Library of Humanities

**Author:** Paula Clemente Vega<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Open Library of Humanities*

The Open Library of Humanities (OLH) is an award-winning, scholar-led publisher of humanities research based at Birkbeck, University of London. OLH plays a leading role in journal flipping, supporting the transition of titles away from commercial publishers and returning ownership to scholarly communities. Over the past two years alone, OLH has welcomed 14 journals, including several high-profile transitions from major commercial presses.

OLH's diamond open access model is funded by over 300 member libraries through a collective funding model. Through tiered library memberships, OLH is able to sustain its publishing operations, continue to flip subscription journals, and develop Janeway, its in-house, open-source publishing platform. Since its launch, OLH has grown from 99 supporting institutions and 7 journals in 2015 to more than 340 supporting institutions and 34 journals in 2025.

Drawing on data from OLH's latest annual report, this presentation focuses on costs and cost transparency within OLH's diamond open access model, detailing how much participating universities contribute, how these funds are allocated across publishing activities, and how financial sustainability is achieved.

#### **Biography:**

Paula Clemente Vega is Community Outreach Manager at the Open Library of Humanities (OLH), where she leads the library membership programme and works on outreach and advocacy to support diamond open access publishing. She plays a key role in strengthening relationships with libraries and increasing the visibility of OLH. Paula holds a PhD in arts and humanities from Birkbeck, University of London.

ORCID:

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## Diamond Open Access / 23

### Understanding Costs and Transparency in Diamond Open Access Publishing

**Authors:** Helene Strauß<sup>1</sup>; Juliane Finger<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ZBW –Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

Diamond Open Access is often perceived as a particularly fair and cost-efficient mode of scholarly publishing - free of article processing charges and therefore seemingly “free of charge.” However, Diamond Open Access publications also entail costs, which are covered through a variety of funding models. In the presentation, we look at this topic from the perspective of the DFG-funded project Servicestelle Diamond Open Access (SeDOA), the German Diamond Capacity Centre. We explain the objectives and services of SeDOA, as well as the working definition of Diamond Open Access. Building on the results of a SeDOA survey and other relevant studies, we address the question of the costs that arise in Diamond Open Access publishing. We also examine the issue of transparency: which information on ownership structures, funding pathways, and in-kind contributions is necessary to ensure transparency - and where do gaps still exist today. Using consortial funding models as an example, we discuss the degree of transparency that is currently achievable and what could be improved. Finally, we reflect on the criteria applied to Diamond Open Access and whether costs should be considered the ultimate benchmark.

#### Biographies:

**Juliane Finger** is an Open Access advocate at ZBW –Leibniz Information Centre for Economics. She coordinates the work package “Community Support Services” of the SeDOA project. Juliane is also project lead of the Open Library Economics (OLEcon), an initiative to support Diamond Open Access for journals from business and economics. She holds a PhD in communication science and has been working in the field of Open Access for over eight years.

**Helene Strauß** holds a degree in Information Science and has been actively involved in Open Science initiatives since 2017. After five years working on the open-access.network project, Helene joined the ZBW –Leibniz Information Centre for Economics in 2025 as part of the SeDOA-project. Within the Community Support Services team, Helene focuses on community engagement through the organization of events and workshops and the creation of informational resources.

ORCiD:

Choose a theme for your abstract::

Open Science Infrastructures / 24

## TSOSI: practicing open data to broaden financial support of open infrastructures

**Author:** Maxence Larrieu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Université Grenoble Alpes

TSOSI, Transparency to sustain open science infrastructure, is a new web platform, launched in June 2025, that aims to broaden financial support to open science infrastructure. This contribution will first explain the context and goals of TSOSI. Its aim is to make support for infrastructures as evident as, for example, subscribing to a ‘publish and read’ agreement. How can we make the practice of supporting open infrastructures more common? This will be the main focus of the contribution.

TSOSI’s original idea is based on transparency and mimicry. Imagine a tool, for universities, that allows them to see which open infrastructures their neighboring universities have supported. This is precisely what TSOSI is designed to do. It highlights which organizations –e.g. research funders, library consortia, universities –have financially supported which open infrastructures. TSOSI sheds light on the open infrastructure funding landscape; its motto is ‘the more we highlight the supports made for open infrastructures, the more supporters we will attract’.

#### Biography:

Maxence Larrieu is the project leader of Transparency to Sustain Open Science Infrastructure (TSOSI, [tsosi.org](https://tsosi.org)), which started in 2024 and is funded by the French Committee for Open Science. He has been working at the University of Grenoble Alpes since 2023 as a data steward for the humanities

and social sciences. He obtained his PhD in 2018 at Paris-Est University in digital humanities. Since 2015, he has been working to implement open science at the institutional level in different research universities. He has been engaged in research data, diamond open access, monitoring open science, and open access repositories. Besides TSOSI, one of his latest famous projects is the diamond open access publishing platform OPUS, opus.u-paris.fr, running entirely on free softwares from the Public Knowledge Project. He has been a member of the LIBER Open Access working group, and he is currently the pilot of one of the national open science working groups led by the French Committee for Open Science.

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Workshop / 25

## You can't standardise what you don't capture: The openCost internal format and a MyCoRe implementation demo

**Authors:** Kathleen Neumann<sup>1</sup>; Lisa-Marie Stein<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Verbundzentrale des GBV*

<sup>2</sup> *L (Bibliothek und Dokumentation)*

One key focus of the second phase of the openCost project is the development of a generic openCost "internal format":

A prerequisite for using and integrating the openCost exchange format is to record publication cost data systematically within the institution. The information must simply be available in order to be processed further. However, many institutions are not yet able to record the necessary cost data adequately. On the one hand, this is related to existing workflows and processes, which may need to be restructured, and on the other hand, there is a lack of suitable user interfaces for cost data recording in the respective systems.

The internal format requires additional metadata fields due to the specific requirements of the institutional context. The difference between the exchange format and the internal format lies in particular in the fact that internal management requires richer and more granular contextual information that is not necessarily intended for external communication and data exchange.

The internal format will help institutions to set up a comprehensive local cost monitoring, which is necessary for establishing an information budget.

Initial results of the development of this internal metadata schema for cost recording will be presented and discussed. We will be hosting stakeholders from various institutions that either already manage their cost data in the same system environment, or intend to organise it there in the future (e.g. FOLIO, ALMA, DSpace, MyCoRe, etc.) and who could benefit from a common standard. Instead of developing individual solutions, the aim is to provide the conceptual basis for the necessary content in the form of the openCost internal format, while also offering space for system-level networking and putting the content into practice.

Thus, the session begins with an explanation of the definition of the internal format: What is its function and how does it differ from the openCost exchange format? This is followed by an overview of the format's development and content before its implementation is presented using the practical example of the MyCoRe framework. A demo system will be used to provide insights into initial implementations. The cost recording module can be tested collaboratively.

As a modular system for institutional repositories and other library applications, MyCoRe will provide a publication cost building block. Based on the MODS data model, it can be implemented in or synchronised with the respective MyCoRe instance. The implementation embeds the internal

openCost format in MODS, provides web forms and output options, and delivers various transformations, e.g. into the openCost exchange format or an extended Datacite XML. A format and set configuration for the OAI PMH 2.0 interface are also part of the MyCoRe openCost module.

Alongside the presentation of the latest results by MyCoRe and openCost, this conference session is deliberately designed as an interactive, workshop-oriented format. The plenary is invited to share their perspectives, needs and usage scenarios to help further develop the openCost internal format and validate the current draft.

**ORCID:**

**Choose a theme for your abstract::**

**Keynote / 26**

## **Why does the DFG support the development of information budgets and standardized cost data?**

**Author:** Angela Holzer<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *German Research Foundation*

The presentation will address the various ways in which the German Research Foundation (DFG) is working toward the standardization of cost and other publication metadata in the scientific publishing sector.

It will embed this support in the strategic discussion on open access and address the framework conditions and objectives of information budgets. It also explains the funding strategy approach that underlies standardization. In doing so, it also addresses questions about the obstacles and difficulties involved in standardization.

### **Biography:**

Dr. Angela Holzer is responsible for funding in the area of digital publishing/open access at the German Research Foundation.

**ORCID:**

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**openCost / 27**

## **Beyond Journals: Expanding the EZB to Include Information on Open Access Agreements**

**Authors:** Robert Bosek<sup>1</sup>; Silke Weisheit<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *University of Regensburg*

The shift towards Open Access (OA) and associated necessities of budget planning and contract negotiations require reliable information on publication cost data. The openCost project supports this by creating a technical infrastructure that enables the exchange of publication cost data via standardized formats and interfaces. During its second phase, the project will aim to expand the Electronic Journals Library (EZB) to cover information on OA agreements.

The current state of development includes the recently released Journals API. This interface provides machine-readable metadata for journals listed in the EZB, such as access conditions, price types, languages, keywords, and journal categories. External services, i.e. *oa.finder*, can now retrieve current information via the API, alongside the traditional EZB data exports.

Additionally, a linked information platform is being developed and integrated into the EZB to manage detailed data on OA agreements and funding models. This platform will aggregate information on OA agreements, memberships, transformative contracts, and models such as Diamond Open Access. Building on existing resources, including the ESAC Transformative Agreement Registry, it connects data from various sources. Iterative extensions to the API and administration interfaces will facilitate effective interaction with this information platform.

Expanding the EZB in this way supports researchers and library staff in comparing publication options and managing cost information. At the same time, data will be provided in a structured, machine-readable format for reuse in external systems. These developments enable consistent and automated exchange of cost- and contract-related data within openCost.

**Biographies:**

Silke Weisheit is the head of UR Library Services at University Library of Regensburg, which encompasses the EZB, DBIS, and RVK services. She is actively involved in the DFG-funded openCost project and is also a founding member and part of the organizing team of the AG Systemlandschaft E-Ressourcen (E-Resources System Landscape Working Group). In addition, she is involved in various specialist working groups on e-resources and open access.

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Workshop / 28

## Extending the openCost exchange format beyond journal articles: A hands-on lab for (other) text-based publications

Author: Julia Bartlewski<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bielefeld University*

The openCost exchange format currently provides a standardized way to share publication cost data for journal articles. While this approach has proven to be a practical and widely applicable starting point, it does not yet sufficiently cover other text-based publication types that play an important role in scholarly publishing.

This hands-on lab focuses on how the openCost exchange format can be extended to include additional text-based publication types, initially concentrating on books, book chapters, and conference proceedings. The session will introduce a preliminary proposal for these publication types within the openCost exchange format. This draft is intended as a starting point for discussion and further development.

Participants are invited to actively engage with this draft and share their perspectives and experiences. Key discussion points will include which publication types are missing or particularly urgent from an institutional point of view, whether further text-based formats should be considered, which cost types from the current article-based model can be transferred to other publication types, and where additional or more granular cost information may be required. The session will also explore similarities and differences across publication types in order to assess how far a common modelling approach can be applied.

The results of the session will directly inform the further development of the openCost exchange format, ensuring that future extensions are based on concrete institutional needs and use cases.

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openCost / 29

## OpenAPC expanded: Contracts in Focus

**Authors:** Christoph Broschinski<sup>1</sup>; Julia Bartlewski<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bielefeld University*

Since 2014, OpenAPC has been collecting and publishing cost data on open access publishing from research institutions and consortia. Until now, the infrastructure has been purely publication-centered: contract information was previously only visible indirectly, through associated articles. Given the growing variety of publishing agreements –including transformative agreements, memberships, and agreements with fully open-access publishers –it has become evident that a purely article-centered perspective alone is insufficient to adequately capture cost structures.

To address this issue, the OpenAPC infrastructure has been adjusted to include a separate data set for contracts. This data set contains contract-related metadata and cost data, adheres to the openCost schema, and ensures compatibility with emerging standards for exchanging publication cost data. Separating contract- and publication-related information enables an accurate aggregation of diverse payment models without compromising existing article-based analyses.

The presentation outlines the conceptual framework for this expansion, describing its data structure and workflows. It then discusses the impact on how publication costs are collected and analyzed. The addition of a contract-focused approach improves transparency of complex publishing agreements, reduces the reporting workload for institutions, and enhances the analytical value of OpenAPC data for long-term cost monitoring.

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## Welcome and Opening of the Conference

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## The second phase of openCost: Navigating Cost Transparency

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## Closing speech

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3 Minute Madness / 33

## Open Access Publishing Costs in Spain: implementing openCost for DSpace Repositories

Author: Isabel Bernal<sup>1</sup><sup>1</sup> CSIC

The Institutional Repositories Working Group of the Spanish Network of University and CSIC Libraries (REBIUN, <https://www.rebiun.org/grupos-trabajo/repositorios>) is working on implementing the openCOST metadata schema as there is an interest in showing information about open access publishing costs in a commonly agreed way. The analysis and beta implementation of the metadata schema is being advanced by the DSpace repositories subgroup and ongoing work has focused on identifying the most relevant metadata given the data model in place in such repositories as well as the type and granularity of OA publishing cost information collected by their institutions. The poster gives an overview of progress so far and next steps.

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