Faculty Perceptions of Open Access Author Fees

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Research Questions
- What do faculty know and think about OA author fees?
- Had faculty paid such fees in the past or refused to publish in OA journals because of them?
- How had faculty obtained funds to pay such fees?

Methods
- Survey via Qualtrics, October 2013
- Emailed to department lists and individual faculty
- Identical at both institutions except for one additional question at Cornell
- All STEM faculty except biology
- Biology excluded, at Cornell biology is spread across veterinary school, agriculture school, and medical campuses which would not have a comparison at Syracuse
- 123 responses

Findings

Who has paid OA fees?

Would you pay OA fees for grad students?

Free Response Themes
- Opposition to any additional costs
- Journal quality not high enough
- Open access fees are too high
- The model does not fit the funding cycle, money is gone when it is time to pay fees
- Publishers are double dipping, I only want to support open access journals created by colleagues in my field

Roles for Librarians

Share
Share information about subscription costs to universities and how faculty are already paying

Educate
Educate faculty and students about sources of funding for author fees

Guide
Guide authors to reputable open access titles

Fight
Fight predatory publishing practices in all forms, proprietary and open access

Demand
Demand that publishers demonstrate the value they add to the publication process

Advocate
Advocate for funding agencies to cover open access fees or extend funding through the publication process

Support
Support scholar organized journals and platforms for sharing publications

More Information