

Economic aspects of Open Access publishing

Author-pay model: Considerations for the developing world

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Open Access definition and
concept, Pritpal S Tamber,
BioMed Central

What I am going to cover

- 1: What “author-pay” is
- 2: Possible problems with input pays
- 3: How it might bias the literature
- 4: Possible ways to embrace it?

What is “author-pay”?

- An inaccurate description
- “Input pays” is more accurate
- Cover the cost of publishing online-only (+/- profit, if commercial)
- No print = cheaper
- Revenue per print article: \$3000 - \$5000
- Input charge range: \$525 - \$1500

Why is there a price “range”?

- Depends on the amount of work done in that journal – ie the service provided
- Added services:
 - Copyediting
 - Substantive editing
 - Commissioning
 - Providing a free print version
 - Etc
- Higher service = higher price
- Service does NOT necessarily equate to quality!

Possible problems with input pays

- At least two major issues:
 - Too expensive
 - | Waivers (BMC, PLoS): country or discretionary
 - No funds immediately available
 - | Inform funders/institutions/"third parties"
 - | "Private" practice (non-institutional)
 - | Could deter research "enthusiasts"

How it might bias the literature



- Open Access (or free access) offers greater visibility
- Has the potential for greater “impact”
- BUT the business model may favour wealthier nations
- Research from LAMI countries becomes even more invisible?

How to embrace Open Access?

- Understand the options available (self-archiving versus OA publishing)
- Be creative with paying for “input”
- Money:
institutional/industry/NGO/government?
- Move existing journals to become OA?
- **Internet access is different issue**
- Remember that OA is only an alternative

What I have covered



- 1: What “author-pay” is
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- 4: Ways to embrace it?

Thank you for listening