

Assessment of the total costs of open scholarly publishing

The [policy component](#) for open access to journal articles and conference publications states as follows: “The total cost for scholarly publications will not exceed the current overall cost when transitioning to open access. The estimate of overall costs reflects all present costs and the total volume of research.”

The assessment of total costs according to the policy is carried out as part of the monitoring of open science.

The model for monitoring the total costs of open publishing was prepared and updated by a working group coordinated by the National Library of Finland (FinELib). The members of the 2024 working group included:

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Introduction

The data used in monitoring total costs are derived from three sources: 1) The FinELib office at the National Library of Finland; 2) the [Open APC](#) service; 3) the Open Science Survey. The survey is conducted by the Secretariat for the National Open Science and Research Coordination and it is carried out once every two years. FinELib submits its data to the Secretariat according to a schedule subject to separate agreement.

Based on the collected data, the Secretariat determines the total costs of open scholarly publishing and their breakdown by cost category and sector. The results and summary of this monitoring are published as part of the reporting on the monitoring of open science on <https://research.fi/en/>. In addition to the results, the quality of the data will be commented on and proposals for developing the monitoring will be presented. The data resulting from the monitoring will be made openly available through fairdata.fi.

The monitoring covers licence and subscription fees, transformative agreements, authors' fees, printed materials, membership and support fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms, the costs of organisations' own scientific OA publishing activities, publishing in an open access repository, support for open scholarly publishing and Finnish periodical publications. While not all of these costs are directly related to open scholarly publishing, they have been included to monitor the impact of open scholarly publishing.

Table 1 summarises the monitored costs and used data sources. Questions concerning the costs of open scholarly publishing included in the Open Science Survey and their specifications are provided in Appendix 1. The concepts used in the monitoring model and questionnaire are defined in the [FinELib glossary](#).

General instructions:

- All costs are given in euros.
- The costs are reported as lump sums, i.e. not broken down by publisher. The exception to this is FinELib's transformative and full OA agreements, for which the FinELib office also provides publisher-specific prices, if so allowed by agreements.
- Responses concerning publishing in an open access repository, the support services for open scholarly publishing and the monitoring of open scholarly publishing are estimates and reported in person-years. (More information in the questionnaire). This is because it is generally not possible to present exact sums in euros for the above.
- Some of the costs of open publishing are rather difficult to trace, and some costs, such as the authors' fees paid by researchers using credit card, are often not known to organisations. This is important to consider in the reporting of results.

Monitored costs and data sources

Cost	Data source	More information
Licence and subscription fees (FinELib)	FinELib	Costs of scientific e-journals, e-books and full text databases. No costs of repository and source materials, statistical databases or reference databases or databases other than those containing scientific full-text publications. The division between “scientific” and “non-scientific” will be made as far as possible based on the publisher or main content.
Licence and subscription fees (non-FinELib)	Survey	Costs of scientific e-journals, e-books and full-text databases acquired directly from a distributor or a publisher (not through FinELib). No costs of archive and source materials, statistical databases or reference databases or databases other than those containing scientific full-text publications. The division between “scientific” and “non-scientific” will be made as far as possible based on the publisher or main content. Expressed as lump sums, i.e. not broken down by publisher.
Transformative agreements (FinELib)	FinELib	Expressed as a lump sum and per publisher (to the extent permitted by the agreements). Any authors' fees are reported separately (by each organisation) under “OA publication fees”. A list of FinELib’s transformative agreements is available here .
Transformative agreements (non-FinELib)	Survey	Transformative agreements concluded independently by the organisation (i.e. non-FinELib). The value of the agreements is given as a lump sum.
Full OA agreements (FinELib)	FinELib	FinELib’s full OA agreements (agreements with fully open publishers such as Frontiers). Expressed as a lump sum and per publisher (to the extent permitted by the agreements).
OA publication fees (non-FinELib)	OpenAPC (via the VIRTAs interface) + survey	Open scholarly publishing fees for authors (APC: Article Processing Charge and BPCs: Book Processing Charges). Also covers authors' fees paid by the organisation itself after the expiry of the OA quotas for transformative agreements, authors' fees paid by researchers themselves with a credit card (if known) and any membership fees for publishers’ OA membership programmes. Fees not related to open scholarly publishing, such as additional charges for a colour figure, additional page etc., are not reported
Printed materials	Survey	Incl. all printed material (books, magazines, periodical

		publications, etc.) including non-scientific. Reported as a lump sum.
Membership and sponsorship fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (FinELib)	FinELib	Sponsorship and membership fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (e.g. arXiv.org, DOAJ) invoiced through the FinELib consortium. Reported as a lump sum.
Membership and support fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (non-FinELib)	Survey	Sponsorship and membership fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (e.g. arXiv.org, Open Citations, DOAJ) paid external to the consortium.
Costs of scientific OA publishing activities	Survey	Costs of the organisation's own scientific OA publishing activities (Helsinki University Press, Tampere University Press, etc.). Reported as lump sums.
Publishing in an open access repository	Survey	Costs of publishing in an open access repository (personnel costs for infrastructure maintenance and repository work). The responses are estimates and are reported as lump sums. An estimate of maintenance costs is given in euros and personnel costs are estimated in person-years, accurate to the nearest decimal. More detailed instructions are provided in the questionnaire.
Open scholarly publishing support services and expert work related to the processing of authors' fees	Survey	Expert work related to the support services for open scholarly publishing (advising researchers, supporting and monitoring of open scholarly publishing etc.) and the processing and monitoring of authors' fees. The responses are estimates and are given in person-years, accurate to the nearest decimal. Any fees paid for OA management tools (SciFree JST, ChronosHub, etc.) are reported separately in euros.
Finnish periodical publications	Survey	Incl. subscription fees and possible author and sponsorship fees. Reported as a lump sum. NB! The costs of Finnish scientific periodicals are <i>not</i> broken down in the other questions in the survey, i.e. they are also included in other answers.

Table 1: Summary of monitored costs and data sources

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Subscription fees (non-FinELib):

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay for *scientific* e-journals and e-books other than those subscribed through FinELib? Your response should include materials acquired directly by the organisation through a distributor or publisher and any subscription fees/licences not included in FinELib agreements excluding transformative agreements. *No* costs of archive and source materials, statistical databases or reference databases or databases other than those containing scientific full-text publications. Make a distinction between “scientific” and “non-scientific” to the extent possible based on the publisher. If the material contains both scientific and non-scientific content, make the distinction based on the main content.

- E-journals and e-series publications in total EUR _____
- E-books total EUR _____

Further information:

Transformative agreements (non-FinELib)

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay for transformative agreements *external* to the FinELib consortium (i.e. those independently concluded and negotiated by the organisation)? Any authors' fees are reported separately under “OA publication fees”. You can mention the names of the publishers in the “More information” section.

- Transformative agreements external to the FinELib consortium EUR _____
- Our organisation has not concluded transformative agreements external to the FinELib consortium: _____.

Further information:

OA publication fees (non-FinELib)

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay in open scholarly publishing fees for authors (Article Processing Charge, APC and Book Processing Charge, BPC)? Also include any authors' fees paid by the organisation *after the expiry of the OA quotas* included in transformative agreements and any membership fees paid for publishers' OA membership schemes (e.g. Springer Open Membership). The costs of articles covered by the [FinELib's transformative agreements](#) are *not* reported (i.e. they are received directly from FinELib), and *neither* are any charges unrelated to open scholarly publishing, such as those for a colour figure, an additional page etc.

- Our information is available in OpenAPC: _____
- Our information is available in OpenAPC, in addition to which we have OA publication fees not reported in the service (non-FinELib)¹:
 - Total authors' fees, articles (APC) EUR _____
 - Total authors' fees, books (BPC) EUR _____
 - Total membership fees in OA membership schemes EUR _____
- Our information is not available in OpenAPC. Our organisation's OA publication fees:
 - Total Article Processing Charges (APC) EUR _____
 - Total Book Processing Charges (BPC) EUR _____
 - Total membership fees in OA membership schemes EUR _____
- Our organisation does not pay authors' fees or authors' fees paid by the organisation/researchers are not subject to monitoring _____

Further information:

Printed materials

How much did the organisation (library) pay for printed materials in 2025? Include *all* printed materials, whether scientific or non-scientific. However, under "More Information", you can give a rough estimate of how much of the material acquired included scientific publications (journals, series, books).

- Total printed materials EUR _____

Further information:

Membership and support fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (non-FinELib):

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay for various sponsorship, membership and maintenance fees for open scholarly publishing infrastructures and platforms (e.g. arXiv.org, Open Citations, DOAJ, your own organisation's online journal platforms, publication archives) *external*² to the FinELib consortium? You can specify which OA infrastructures and platforms are funded by the organisation and which membership schemes it belongs to.

- Total sponsorship and membership fees for OA infrastructure, platforms and services EUR _____

Further information:

¹ E.g. Authors' fees not "eligible" for OpenAPC (individual book chapter fees, etc.) or charges concerning part of the year not yet reported to OpenAPC.

² E.g. Funding channelled through SCOSS (The Global Sustainability Coalition for Open Science Services) takes place through the FinELib consortium.

Costs of the organisation's own scientific OA publishing activities

How much did the organisation pay for its own scientific OA publishing activities (Helsinki University Press, Tampere University Press, etc.) in 2025?

- Total costs of the organisation's own scientific OA publishing activities EUR _____

Further information:

Publishing in an open access repository

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay for publishing in an open access repository (personnel costs for infrastructure maintenance and repository work)? The responses are estimates. An estimate of maintenance costs is given in euros accurate to the nearest EUR 5,000; personnel costs are estimated in person-years, accurate to the nearest decimal. (A person-year refers to the work input of a full-time employee, i.e. the work input of two half-day employees are counted as a single person-year.) If the organisation has its own open access repository, the costs of parallel publishing are calculated by multiplying the costs of the open access repository by the relative share of the parallel publications (e.g. 0.3 x all new publications saved in the repository at the annual level).

- Total estimated maintenance costs EUR _____
- Total estimated personnel costs in person-years _____ person-years

Further information:

Open scholarly publishing support services and expert work related to the processing of authors' fees

In 2025, how much working time was spent on the support services for open scholarly publishing (advising researchers, supporting and monitoring publishing, opening data etc.) and the processing and monitoring of authors' fees? The responses are estimates and are given in person-years, accurate to the nearest decimal. Also report licence fees paid for OA management tools (SciFree JST, ChronosHub, etc.) in 2025.

- Total estimated person-years at the organisation _____ person-years
- Total fees paid for OA management tools EUR _____

Further information:

Finnish periodical publications

In 2025, how much did the organisation pay for *Finnish scientific journals* and publishing in them (subscription fees and authors' fees)? Also include any sponsorship fees paid for Finnish periodical publications. NB! The costs of Finnish scientific periodical publications are *not* broken down in the previous questions in the survey, i.e. they are *also* included in questions 1–6.

- Total fees for Finnish periodical publications EUR_____.

Further information: