On the Effectiveness of APCs

Welcome to the 3rd ESAC Workshop!
ESAC – Efficiency & Standards for Article Charges

ESAC
Hosted at MPDL
Aims at shaping the principles and conditions of the APC based business model

Part of the INTACT project
DFG (German Research Foundation) funding 2015-2018
Bielefeld University & MPDL
Aims at transparency and efficiency for the APC market
OpenAPC evolved to the largest data set of institutional costs for APCs
What are we talking about?

Types of APCs

Pure GOLD
APCs paid for publishing in a pure open access journal, such as
- all Plos journals
- all BMC journals
- all journals by Copernicus
- SpringerOpen-journals
- Nature Communications
- Scientific Reports
- RSC Advances
- ...

Hybrid
APCs paid for making individual articles available as open access in otherwise closed access (subscription) journals.

Transformative
APCs being an element of a transformative agreement ("offsetting" or "publish and read").

A transformative agreement aims at converting former subscription expenses into expenses for covering an institution's costs for open access publishing with a given publisher.

double dipping!

NO double dipping!
“We also aim at increasing APCs by increasing the value we offer to authors through improving the impact factor and reputation of our existing journals.”

Quote from the Springer Nature IPO prospectus
Common understanding

What does the current scenario look like?

Can all APCs be considered equal?

What is a fair or reasonable APC?

What does the data tell us?

What determines the level of an APC?

What contributing factors do we control?

How do APC expenditures measure up to subscriptions?
Our Objectives

Identify risks
Develop strategies
Common understanding
Identify risks
Develop strategies
ESAC Workshop Outcomes

Joint understanding of offsetting (2016)

Workflow recommendations (2017)

2018
Let’s start!