

TU9-libraries strive for uniform criteria for open access publication funds. They support the existing *DFG Guidelines for Using Funds* and their application to non-DFG funded publication funds.

More specifically,

- TU9-libraries support the gross 2.000-Euro-limit for maximal article processing charges (APC),
- TU9-libraries oppose partial funding of charges exceeding gross 2.000 Euro and
- TU9-libraries support the exclusion of publications in hybrid journals from funding through open access publication funds.

This joint position of the TU9-libraries signals both to researchers at Universities and to the publishing industry that open access needs to remain affordable for the public domain. A price spiral as seen in subscription costs needs to be prevented. Under science political aspects, an arrangement diverging from the existing *DFG Guidelines for Using Funds* is considered problematic.

Our recommendation is underlined by the following arguments:

- If the standard of the *DFG Guidelines for Using Funds* is abandoned by Universities signaling thereby to the publishing side that they differ in their funding policies, the position of science in the DEAL-negotiations is weakened.
- If the publishing industry is under the impression that some Universities accept APC surpassing gross 2.000 Euro, price increases will be the consequence.
- Experience shows that authors can successfully renegotiate high APC to less than gross 2000 Euros with reference to the federal funding limit. This underlines the fact that the APC set by many publishers are arbitrary and beyond actual economic justification. The willingness of publishers to offer discounts is reduced when higher APC are tacitly accepted.
- Support of hybrid open access implies higher budgetary pressures for Universities via „double dipping“. In addition, APC for hybrid publishing are considerably higher than gold open access; and publications are usually very restrictively licensed and available only for additional costs under Creative Commons licenses. Funding of the hybrid model supports traditional publication models and strengthens existing structures.
- Even when funding of open-access publications in hybrid journals is excluded, open access for the concerned publications can be provided cost-free and relatively quickly (usually 12 month embargo) via the green road to open access. The institutions have established reliable infrastructures to support the green road.

TU9-libraries also strive for uniform criteria for contributions in open access anthologies and open access monographs and will present specific recommendations in 2019.