

UC Santa Cruz

Publishing Tips Series Season 1

Title

Season 1, Week 5 - How do I get support for the cost of open access publishing?

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Publishing Tips Series – Season 1, Week 5

November 21, 2024

This is the fifth week of the Publishing Tips Series, Season 1, running from October 24 to December 5, 2024. This series addresses frequently asked questions on publishing from graduate students. This week's installment covers "**How do I get support for the cost of open access publishing?**" Here are this week's takeaways:

- Check your options for open access support, including funding, early in the publishing process, and
- UC libraries provide publisher-specific funding support for the open access fees for articles, so
- It is crucial to read the terms of the discounts and open access publishing agreements with select publishers for authors through the UC libraries.

Spotify link to listen

[Season 1, Week 5 podcast episode](#) (same content as the following text-based version, only in audio format)

How do I get support for the cost of open access publishing?

The tips about selecting a journal in the UCSC Publishing Tips Series Season 1, Week 2 mentioned that open access may be one of the factors for choosing a journal. Open access means that your article or publication is freely and openly available online to read and share, usually with attribution to the author(s). However, publishing open access can come with fees to the author, and today I will share how UCSC authors may receive funding support for open access from the Library.

Let's first consider the types of open access (OA). An open access article can be available directly through a journal – this form is also known as gold OA and traditional or paywalled publishing. Or, an open access article may be shared through an online repository, often as a preprint or the author's accepted manuscript – which is also known as green OA. This green and gold terminology is not essential to remember, but you may see these terms on journal websites. Hybrid is when a journal offers both traditional and OA publishing.

A journal may or may not charge for open access. You may have heard of an open access fee called the article processing charge (or APC), which many open and hybrid journals charge. The journals that neither charge authors an APC nor charge readers to read are also called diamond OA journals.

Read on to learn the answers to two common questions about open access: how to receive support with open access costs here at UCSC and what to do if it is not a journal or publisher that has funding support from the library.

I am a graduate student/candidate and do not have funding. How do I cover the open access costs?

The UC libraries have negotiated agreements and discounts for open access publishing with select publishers so that our authors may publish open access with them with funding support from the Library. These agreements provide funding or reductions of costs for UCSC authors, who include graduate students/candidates for up to a year after graduation for research done at UCSC, which is an important and helpful note because publishing takes so long and it is common for graduates of our grad programs to publish after they complete their dissertations. Regardless of the timing, if you are co-authoring an article, the corresponding author needs to be affiliated with UC, either currently or up to a year ago, in order to take advantage of this funding support for open access. If you have questions about eligibility or these agreements and discounts, please reach out to the Library at research@library.ucsc.edu.

So which publishers or journals are covered? Once you identify the journal you are interested in submitting to, you may check whether your journal is covered by looking it up in the [Journal Open Access Look-up Tool](#), known as JOLT for short. Searching in JOLT lets you enter the name of the journal and see whether the Library covers any portion of the article processing charge (APC). If you do not see your journal listed in the results, it is not covered, but feel free to ask the Library if you are unsure. If you do see your journal listed, the most important thing is to read the terms of UC's open access publishing agreements and discounts early in the publishing process, ideally when you are deciding where to submit your article (*refer back to Season 1, Week 2 for more on choosing a journal!*). Each publisher with which the UC libraries has an agreement or discount varies in their terms – and funding – for open access publishing with the UC libraries. For example, one journal may have a percentage discount on the open access fee for UC authors, while UC libraries may offer full payment of the APC with another publisher, and yet one more journal publisher may not have an agreement with the UC libraries at all.

Within our publisher specific-agreements at UCSC, another way that publishers vary in their terms for the UC's open access publishing agreements is what types of articles are covered or not. Typically original research and scholarly articles are covered, while publications like book reviews would not be, but the included article types differ by publisher.

Our [list of publishers](#) with which we have agreements and discounts covers the terms of support for the open access costs, and they also include FAQs, so that list is the place to go to check the terms and level of funding support for a journal and its publisher. Searching for a journal title in [JOLT](#) will also link you to the details about the open access publishing agreement for that publisher.

To take advantage of these publishing agreements, you may make your selection of open access in the publisher's author portal. No invoices go to the library, so if you do not see an option that you are expecting for open access and/or funding, please contact the Library for help with applying the agreement's funding support or discount to your article. Please reach out to the University Library at research@library.ucsc.edu if you have any questions about funding.

There is not a UC open access publishing agreement or discount with my journal. What should I do?

The University Library does not have a standalone fund for costs outside of the aforementioned UC-wide open access publishing agreements and discounts, so the Library only pays for open access publishing through the publishers and terms in the list shared above. You may consider asking your department or lab if they have any funding available for open access publishing, but there is a free option available through UCSC as well:

The free option is green open access, which means sharing the author's accepted manuscript through an institutional or disciplinary repository online. The way that UCSC makes this possible is through the [UC Presidential Open Access Policy](#), which gives you as a graduate student or candidate the right to make articles open access whether or not there is funding support for publishing open access in the journal that accepts your article while you are affiliated with UCSC (and your faculty advisors are likewise covered under the similar UC Senate Open Access Policy). This free method involves uploading a version of your article – your author's accepted manuscript (AAM) – to eScholarship, the UC's institutional repository and publishing platform, or to another disciplinary repository. For example, humanities scholars may upload their work to a field-specific repository such as [Knowledge Commons](#), while computer science researchers may share via a repository like [ArXiv](#). Uploading the early version of your article to eScholarship (or another online repository) provides you with a permanent link that you can use to share your article, much like a DOI. Again, like everything covered in this Publishing Tips Series, the Library is available for questions about it.

Tips on navigating open access

- Do you prefer a visual guide? A two-page, visual [PDF guide](#) walks authors through ways to publish their articles open access at UCSC, and there is a [text-based version](#). View this guide for a pictorial depiction of your open access options as an author.
- UCSC University Library has a few local agreements, meaning that our library made these agreements with the publisher instead of via UC system-wide agreements. You may see current UCSC-specific OA agreements and discounts on our [OA Funding page](#).
- Reach out to the Library if you are unsure of which version of your article to share in a repository, whether you are uploading your accepted manuscript to eScholarship or another repository. The version that you can share depends on the UC Presidential Open Access Policy as well as the policies of the journal and your publishing agreement.
- Alumni of UCSC graduate programs who are publishing research done at UCSC may benefit from the UC open access publishing agreements for up to a year after graduation. The corresponding author is the one who needs to be affiliated with UCSC, and your UCSC affiliation needs to be on the final published version of the article.
- If/when you go to other institutions, check to see what publishing support they have. Most universities have an institutional repository so you may look for such a resource/tool if you go on to another institution. Some institutions have similar open access publishing agreements, also known as transformative agreements, with publishers to support part or all of the open access fees, and you may look for or inquire whether your new institution has any. Asking the library is a good place to start.

Putting it into practice

1. If you have not done so already, identify a journal that you are interested in, whether you are reading an article published there or you know that you want to submit your manuscript there for consideration. Consider the following questions: *Does the [Journal Open Access Look-up Tool \(JOLT\)](#) say that the journal has funding support from UCSC? What are the terms of the agreement for publishing costs? Is your article type covered by the agreement and for how much funding (options are: fully funded, partially funded, or not funded by UC libraries)?*
2. Check out the terms of the [UC Presidential Open Access Policy](#) terms. Consider these questions: *If you have published before, do you have a copy of your author's accepted manuscript to upload? If you have not published before, where would you save your author's accepted manuscript for safe keeping so that you can upload and share it later?*

More questions? Contact the Library at research@library.ucsc.edu or [sign up](#) for a one-on-one Zoom meeting about publishing.

Talk with you next week about determining whether you can use material created by other people in your own article!

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