
Case Study

PeerJ fills open access publishing gap for Arizona State University with low cost solution and no annual renewal fees



Who we helped

Arizona State University

What they needed

The University wanted its researchers to publish their articles at a low cost per author, whilst enabling those authors to retain their own copyright.

How we helped

- PeerJ supplied an Institutional Publishing Plan for researchers allowing them to publish one PeerJ article every year for life
- Automated process – authors are validated by email so no additional authentication required
- Library easily monitors the usage of publishing plans
- No annual renewal costs or maintenance fees

If your Institution is interested in joining ASU, Berkeley, Cambridge, Duke, Texas A&M and many other institutions, which provide PeerJ Publication Plans to their faculty, then please contact us at peerj.com/edu

What are your issues with the current system of publication?

One of the most problematic issues is the traditional transfer of copyright to the publisher. Publishing contracts vary widely from publisher to publisher, making it a difficult landscape for authors to navigate. We believe that it is critically important for scholars to have the ability to retain their rights. We think it is ridiculous for authors to face uncertainty about what they are allowed to do with articles they have written, or have to ask for permission to use their own work. Publishing models that made sense 50 or 100 years ago just do not work in the 21st century, when making a copy is as simple as downloading a file or clicking on a link.

Why is Open Access important to you?

We are committed to increasing access to the work produced at ASU in order to benefit the public good. Open Access is the best method for connecting the results of research and discovery to those who need it most, where it can have the most impact and provide the most benefit.

What is it about the PeerJ model that interests you?

The move away from the article processing charge is really intriguing. It is important, in this emerging world of Open Access publishing, to experiment with different business models to see which ones can be successful and sustainable, for authors, publishers, and libraries. The ASU Libraries want to encourage innovative models of Open Access publishing, so we were happy to be one of the first institutional members.

What kind of agreement have you entered into with PeerJ?

We have prepaid for a number of basic lifetime memberships for ASU authors that activate when they have a paper accepted to PeerJ.

What problem does the PeerJ Arrangement solve for the Library?

One thing that is attractive about this model is that it is easily manageable for library budgets. The lifetime membership is a one-time purchase, there are no annual renewal costs or maintenance fees, or trying to manage differing numbers of published articles each year. When we run out of the memberships we have already purchased, we can choose to add more, but at some point most, or all, of our faculty will already have a membership with PeerJ and we won't need to purchase them in bulk.