
Case Study

PeerJ fills open access publishing gap for Carnegie Mellon University with low cost and minimal administration solution



Carnegie Mellon University

Who we helped

Carnegie Mellon University

What they needed

Open access is a high priority for Carnegie Mellon University. To encourage open access publishing, the University Libraries need to help defray or lower the cost of open access publishing

How we helped

- PeerJ provided an Institutional Publishing Plan that enabled the University Libraries to fund lifetime PeerJ members for Carnegie Mellon researchers publishing one or two PeerJ articles a year
- The Plan is easy to use, cost effective, and low maintenance
- Use of the Plan is easy to monitor
- Cost effective and low maintenance solution

If your Institution is interested in joining Carnegie Mellon, Berkeley, Cambridge, Duke 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?

Open Access publishing is the future of scholarly publishing. For much too long, commercial publishers have required authors to transfer copyright to them and then charged libraries escalating prices for journal subscriptions, reaping exorbitant profits from research funded by universities, federal agencies and private foundations. Confronted by mandates, these same publishers embargo deposits in Open Access repositories and levy a substantial Article Processing Charge (APC) for immediate Open Access in so-called hybrid journals. More often than not, these hybrids are not a transition stage to fully Open Access journals, but rather provide a second revenue stream from the same content. Commercial publishers of hybrid and fully Open Access journals charge APCs far higher than non-profit publishers. They serve stockholders, not the research community.

Why is Open Access important to you?

Open Access increases the impact of research and maximizes the return on investment in research. In keeping with the mission of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Open Access leverages technology to disseminate and democratize knowledge. The University Libraries encourage CMU researchers to deposit their manuscripts in the University's Open Access repository, Research Showcase @ CMU, and to publish their work Open Access. The Libraries' memberships and site licenses provide discounts on Article Processing Charges (APCs) to encourage Open Access publishing. We provide financial support to help authors pay APCs when they have no other source of funding.

What is it about the PeerJ model that interests you?

The University Libraries are committed to facilitating the transition to Open Access publishing. The PeerJ model is affordable and innovative, and the PeerJ subject areas are aligned with the disciplinary domains of the CMU research community. To develop sustainable business models for Open Access publishing, experiments such as PeerJ must be supported. PeerJ levies membership fees in lieu of APCs. Memberships are purchased using our APC fund.

What kind of agreement have you entered into with PeerJ?

When a paper is submitted or accepted for publication in PeerJ, the University Libraries will automatically pay the cost of a Basic or Enhanced publication plan for any CMU author. Basic plans allow an author to publish one PeerJ article every year, for life, for free. Enhanced plans allow an author to publish two PeerJ articles every year, for life, for free. The publication plan remains with the author, even if the author leaves Carnegie Mellon University.

What problem does the PeerJ arrangement solve for the Library?

Many CMU authors are deterred from Open Access publishing by high APCs. The University Libraries provide financial support to help authors pay APCs, but the fund is limited. Purchasing PeerJ plans is an affordable way to encourage Open Access publishing and to support experimentation with Open Access business models.

Contact [Denise Troll Covey](mailto:troll@andrew.cmu.edu)
Email troll@andrew.cmu.edu