
Case Study

PeerJ fills open access publishing gap for Oregon State University with low cost solution and open peer review



Who we helped

Oregon State University

What they needed

The University wanted its researchers to publish their articles at a low cost per author, whilst receiving a more open peer review process.

How we helped

- PeerJ supplied an Institutional Publishing Plan for researchers allowing them to publish one or two PeerJ articles every year
- Automated process – authors are validated by email so no additional authentication required
- Transparency – an open peer review process
- Cost effective and low maintenance solution

If your Institution is interested in joining Oregon State, 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

Why is Open Access important to you?

Open Access is very important to Oregon State University as a method for ensuring the widest possible dissemination of its research output. As a land grant university, Oregon State has a fundamental mission to provide education and knowledge to the citizens of Oregon and beyond. By making articles and other research products available to the general public and researchers around the world, Open Access accelerates scientific discovery and scholarly inquiry.

OSU Libraries and Press have played an essential role in moving Open Access forward at Oregon State University. We supported passage of the OSU Open Access policy by the Faculty Senate in 2013, and we manage the institutional repository ScholarsArchive@OSU that provides Open Access to the accepted manuscripts of faculty articles under the Open Access policy. In addition to our support for “green” Open Access through ScholarsArchive@OSU, OSU Libraries and Press also seeks to facilitate publishing in “gold” Open Access journals. This led us to purchase PeerJ publication plans for OSU authors.

What is it about the PeerJ model that interests you?

We find the PeerJ model compelling on several levels. First, we like the publication-plan based economic model as an alternative to high-cost article processing charges. If successful, we believe the PeerJ economic model could inspire similar approaches to Open Access journal publishing in other fields.

Secondly, we appreciate PeerJ's approach to peer-review. While peer-review is essential to scholarly publishing, new “open” mechanisms are needed to enable this process to have greater impacts on authors and readers alike. PeerJ's focus on scientific and methodological soundness, along with an emphasis on transparency and the role of reader comments, promises to improve the quality and quantity of the articles it publishes.

What kind of agreement have you entered into with PeerJ?

OSU Libraries and Press is offering Basic or Enhanced PeerJ publication plans to OSU authors. We hope this arrangement will not only encourage OSU scholars to publish with PeerJ, but also to contribute in other ways by serving as editors, referees, and commenters.

What problem does the PeerJ Arrangement solve for the Library?

While gold Open Access models with article processing charges can work for scholars with funding sources to pay these fees, this model creates barriers to Open Access publishing for other researchers. We encourage scholars to consider publishing their work through Open Access venues, but do not have sufficient funding to subsidize a large amount of article processing charges. The PeerJ model allows our investment to have a much greater impact via the publication-plans. It greatly lowers the financial cost of entering Open Access publishing while ensuring the journal itself is of high quality.

Contact **Shan Sutton**

Email shan.sutton@oregonstate.edu