OPEN ACCESS IN JAPAN
Trends and community responses in physics

Tatsuzo Dazai
Japan Society of Applied Physics
June 3, 2014
Bangkok
Background

Most Japanese society journals have been published by “self-publishing” and are now facing certain challenges:

- Declining number of subscriptions.
- The self-published English journals are not competitive with other international journals in the field.
- There are no STM publishers in Japan that can support societies in publishing local journals internationally.
- The issues persist despite support by the Japanese government through various initiatives such as grant provisions and online hosting (J-STAGE) platforms.
The Physical Society of Japan (JPS)

- Established in 1946
- Membership: ~18,000

Journals published

- *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan (JPSJ)* since 1946
- *Progress of Theoretical and Experimental Physics (PTEP)* since 2012 (predecessor: *Progress of Theoretical Physics since 1946*)
JPSJ

- ~500 articles/year
- Self-publishing
- Subscription model
- Hybrid: 415 OA articles out of 35,000
- Interdisciplinary
  (condensed matter physics)
Challenges: JPSJ

- Decreasing number of institutional subscriptions
- Old online journal platform

JPS decided to persist with the “self-publishing” model after heavy deliberation, mainly because a major proportion of the condensed matter physics community did not want to change the traditional scheme. JPSJ has started to use a new online platform—Atypon. However, the problem of decreasing subscriptions remains unresolved.
PTEP

• ~150 articles/year
• Publishing partner: Oxford University Press
• Gold OA model
• Interdisciplinary
  (high energy physics)
• Supported by a government grant
• Participant in SCOAP³
• Institutional support: KEK, RIKEN, etc.
Challenges: PTEP

- The scope of the predecessor journal *Progress of Theoretical Physics* was too narrow.
- Strong demand from experimental research groups in high energy physics to launch a new journal in which experimental results can be published.

JPS decided to launch PTEP as a **gold OA journal**. At the same time, JPS chose OUP as a publishing partner. Partnering with an international publisher gives JPS a great deal of visibility, e.g., participant in SCOAP³. In addition, JPS has been involved in establishing institutional support schemes for APCs.
The Japan Society of Applied Physics (JSAP)

- Established in 1946
- Membership: ~20,000

Journals published

- *Applied Physics Express (APEX)* since 2008
APEX/JJAP

- APEX: ~500 articles/year
- JJAP: ~1500 articles/year (incl. special issues)
- Publishing partner: IOP Publishing
- Subscription model
- Both are hybrid journals: 54 OA articles out of 62,400
- Applied physics
Challenges: APEX/JJAP

- Decreasing number of institutional subscriptions
- Old online journal platform

JSAP entered into a publishing partnership with IOP Publishing to simultaneously resolve both these problems. The basic idea is to first develop readership to keep their journals afloat. IOP Publishing is responsible for institutional subscriptions and online hosting. The uniqueness in this partnership is that JSAP retains production responsibilities.
Shift to OA?

Making research results OA is now quite common in physics

• Most of the major journals in physics are hybrid OA journals, and authors can make their articles open access by paying an additional fee.

• Gold OA journals have been launched as counterparts to the traditional subscription-model journals, and authors can choose the most appropriate OA journal for submission.
Summary: OA in physics in Japan

- Gold OA is not very well-recognized in physics as compared to the life sciences; however, some gold OA journals such as *New Journal of Physics*, *Optics Express*, and *Physical Review X* are well-established.

- arXiv is traditionally popular as a community repository among physicists.

- Changes in the traditional peer review system (e.g., evaluation after publication) may accelerate the launch of OA journals (but the subscription model will persist).

- Researchers in Japan comply with decisions made by funding agencies about OA obligations, but funding agencies should factor in the cost of OA in research grants.

- The important question is—Can articles written in English benefit a large proportion of Japanese tax payers?
Acknowledgments

Special thanks to

- Ms. Mikiko Tanifuji (National Institute for Materials Sciences)
- Mr. Makoto Yuasa (Editage, Cactus Communications)
- Ms. Tanya Mendes (Editage, Cactus Communications)
- Mr. Go Izui (Atlas)
Thank you