PeerJ: Alternative models to broaden participation

Nathaniel Gore // Director of Communities, PeerJ
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Launched in 2012, PeerJ is a fully Open Access Publisher

Committed to transforming access to research communication

PeerJ offers multiple alternatives to APCs and support for contributors
PeerJ’s launch model: Personal Lifetime Membership

One-time purchase = lifetime publishing rights

Available to any author - membership requirement waived for Low Income Country authors and Undergraduates

Low-cost and sustainable – particularly good for groups of authors who publish regularly together, or small author groups/labs

Over 13,000 users with Memberships since 2012

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PeerJ’s newest model: Annual Institutional Memberships (AIMs)

Annual payment provides unlimited publishing for authors affiliated with an Institutional Member - reduces administrative overheads and removes barriers to authors choosing OA

Available to any institution (university, funder etc.)

Members can choose to support new Global Publishing Fund for authors without means to pay

New model launched this year - a move towards our ultimate goal of achieving globally equitable Open Access via collective action, where no author will have to pay a fee to publish
PeerJ’s future model: Open Advances Series

New journal series launching this year, committed to being fee-free for authors

Advancing Open Access from “access for anyone to read” to “access for anyone to participate”

Initially funded by PeerJ, will transition to be supported by AIMs and then collective action
Transitional Support: Making APCs fairer with Contributor Rewards

Reviewers and Editors earn PeerJ Tokens for their contributions to peer review, which can be exchanged for APC discounts.

Tokens can be accumulated or "stacked" over time, and pooled with co-authors to maximize discount - many papers published for free from highly engaged author groups.

Anyone can sign up to our reviewer database and volunteer to review specific submissions.

PeerJ Hubs developed a centralized Cooperative Publishing Fund, where members can donate Tokens they earn – or exchange their Hub discount – to support fellow members without funding for OA.

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