

# Library funding for Open Access at KU Leuven

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# Overview presentation



How we organize library funding for Open Access



Support for OS initiatives



Support for OA books published by Leuven University Press



No more APCs



No transformative agreements

# How we organize library funding for Open Access



# “If you want change, try something new”

- Redirect library budgets: shift from spending on product to spending on production cost
- Stimulate the development of new, innovative, non-profit, and community-owned initiatives
- Encourage the diversity of business models in the market of academic publishing



# “If you want change, try something new”

With change, come some challenges:

## Set-up of library budgets

- Rigid structure
- Reluctant to redirect budget
- Limited amount of funds

## Issue of freeloaders

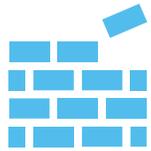
- Lack of concrete return on investment

## Overcoming arguments against trying something new

- Current academic reward system
- Importance of institutional rankings
- Prestige attached to legacy publishers

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# KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access



Established in 2018 to streamline OA support



Managed by KU Leuven Libraries



Overseen by a committee chaired by KU Leuven's vice-rector for research policy



Day-to-day management by two members of the library's staff (together about 0.3 FTE) with some administrative support (about 0.1 FTE)

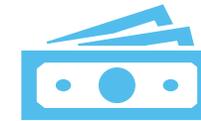
# KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access



Devoted to the support of non-profit and community-owned initiatives in the field of Open Scholarship + subsidies for OA books by Leuven University Press

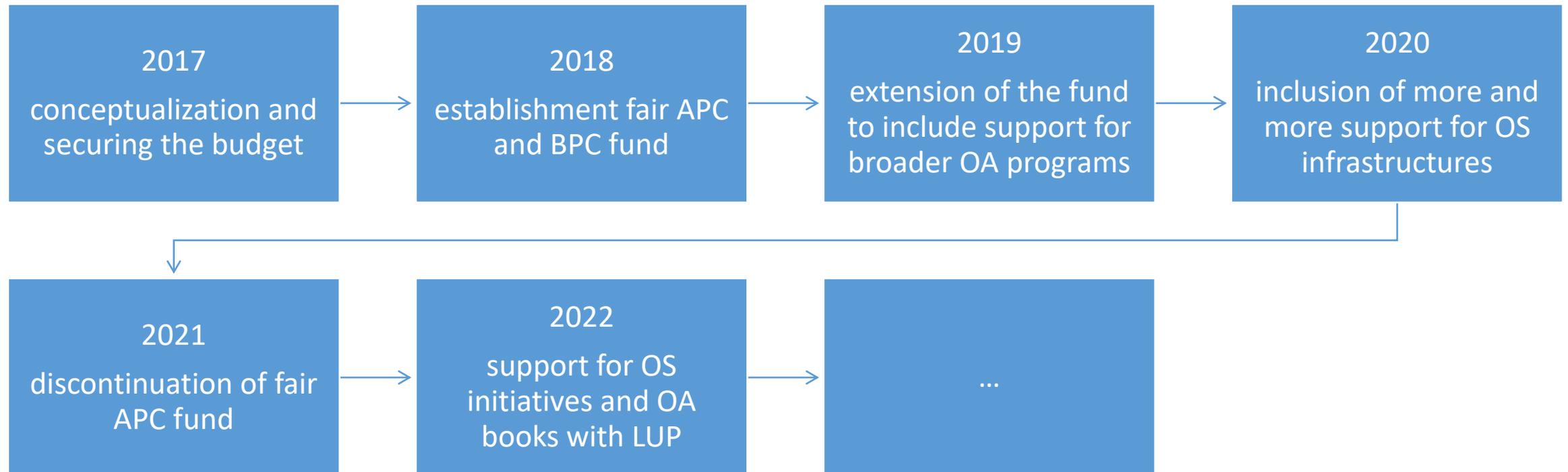


Put the spotlight on partners who are willing to try out something new and who serve scholarship rather than shareholders



Distinct budget line separate from the acquisition budget for academic publications behind a paywall (in 2022 €60.000 for initiatives and €100.000 for OA books)

# KU Leuven Fund for Fair Open Access



# Why (not) a separate fund?



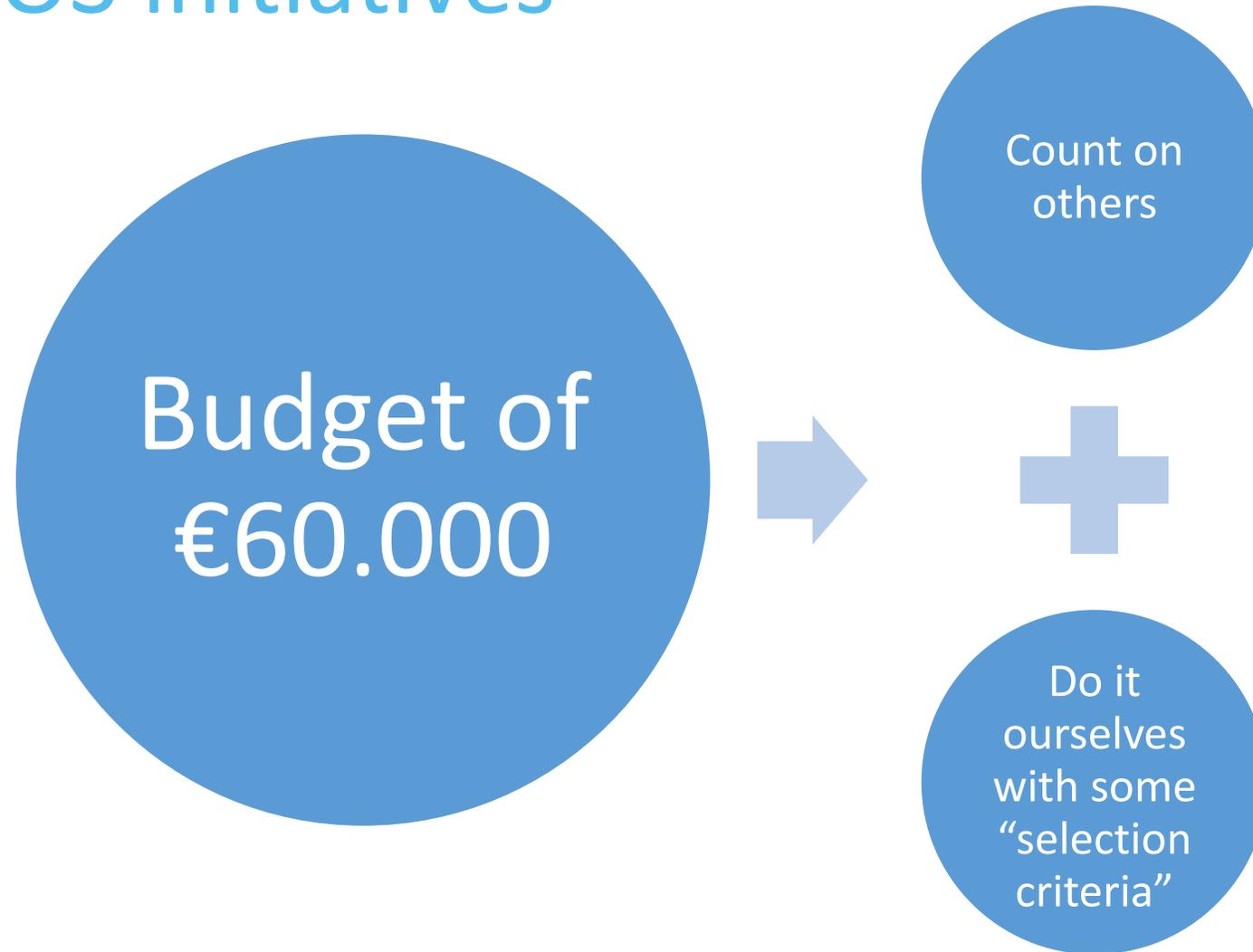
- Secures library budget for non-profit OA
- Simplifies budget decisions and administration
- Creates extra visibility

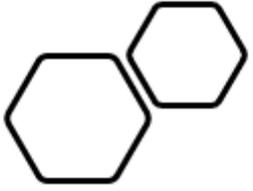
- Support for non-profit OA might be perceived as marginal > important to also use collection budget !

# Support for OS initiatives



# Vetting OS initiatives





## Count on others

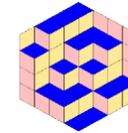
- Partners with shared values
- Rigorous evaluation



# Do it ourselves

- Serve scholarship rather than profit
  - Controlled by academic community
  - Copyright retention by the author(s)
  - Aim for sustainability, diversity, and equality
- Transparency is key
- Local research community
- Diversity
- Administration
  - Budget
  - “Return on investment”
  - Yearly contracts





The [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) is a community-curated database that indexes academic, peer-reviewed [Full OA journals](#) (articles included) across all disciplines and in more than 50 languages. [Hybrid OA journals](#) are not included.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

[Open Science Framework](#), provided by the [Center for Open Science](#), is a free, open project management tool that supports researchers throughout their entire project lifecycle. OSF helps research teams collaborate on projects privately or make the entire project publicly accessible. **Make sure to [login through KU Leuven](#) in order for your public projects to be linked on [KU Leuven's institutional page](#). Information about how to affiliate older projects can be found [here](#).**

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

[OpenEdition Journals](#), part of the digital publishing infrastructure OpenEdition, is a journal platform for the humanities and social sciences. **Researchers and students affiliated with KU Leuven can freely download the PDF and ePub formats of all articles.** Each journal has its own site on the platform, which can be accessed via the OpenEdition Journals index or via our library catalogue [Limo](#).

Funding via [KU Leuven Libraries Artes](#)

[arXiv](#) is a free distribution service and an open access archive for scholarly articles in the fields of physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance, statistics, electrical engineering, and systems science, and economics. Submissions to arXiv are subject to a moderation process but the material is not peer-reviewed by arXiv - the contents of the arXiv submissions are wholly the responsibility of the submitter. Consult our webpage on [preprint servers](#) for more information.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

[Peer Community in](#) is a non-profit scientific organization that aims to create specific communities of researchers recommending, for free, [preprints](#) in their field, based on rigorous peer review. This recommendation could replace the current evaluation process of paid scientific journals. In that way, they offer an alternative for the traditional for-profit publishing model. They also have their own [journal](#) that publishes PCI-recommended articles, without further peer review, at no cost to the authors.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

The [Open Library of Humanities](#) is a publishing platform for OA academic, peer-reviewed journals, amongst which their own multidisciplinary journal. The journals who publish with OLH do **not** charge an [author fee](#) (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via the [Humanities and Social Sciences Group](#)

[Algebraic Combinatorics \(ALCO\)](#) is participating in the [LYRABIS Open Access Community Investment Program \(OACIP\)](#).

ALCO is a peer-reviewed, open access mathematics journal owned by mathematicians dedicated to free dissemination of research. They publish papers in which algebra and combinatorics interact in interesting ways. The journal does **not** charge an author fee (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

[Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication \(JLSC\)](#) is participating in the [LYRABIS Open Access Community Investment Program \(OACIP\)](#).

JLSC is a peer-reviewed, open access journal that is particularly interested in the intersection of librarianship and publishing and the resulting role of libraries in both content dissemination and content creation. The journal does **not** charge an author fee (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)

[Redalyc](#) is an Open Access journal index and article-hosting platform for scholarly Open Access journals published in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal and is supported by the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico. Redalyc includes journal quality assessment processes, full-text articles' hosting, automatic editorial workflow technology, metrics and author-level services.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



[OpenJournals.nl](#) provides an OA publishing platform for scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. The journals who publish with OpenJournals do **not** charge an [author fee](#) (free for readers, free for authors). Their portfolio of journals keeps expanding so keep an eye out for newly added titles!

Funding via [KU Leuven Libraries](#)



[Cogitatio Press](#) is a non-profit OA publisher of 4 peer-reviewed journals: [Media and Communication](#), [Politics and Governance](#), [Social Inclusion](#) and [Urban Planning](#). **Authors affiliated with KU Leuven can publish their articles in these journals free of charge**, without any administration for the author.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



[SciPost](#) is an OA publication portal consisting of SciPost Journals, SciPost Commentaries and SciPost Theses. SciPost Journals currently offers journals in the fields of formal, natural and social sciences. They do **not** charge an [author fee](#) (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



The [Programming Historian](#) is an OA journal that publishes novice-friendly, peer-reviewed tutorials that help humanists learn a wide range of digital tools, techniques, and workflows to facilitate research and teaching. They do **not** charge an [author fee](#) (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via [KU Leuven Libraries Artes](#)



The [LYRABIS Open Access Community Investment Program \(OACIP\)](#) is a community-driven framework that enables multiple stakeholders (including funders, institutions, libraries, authors and editors) to efficiently and strategically evaluate and collectively fund OA content initiatives.

Funding via the [LYRABIS OACIP model for the journals Environmental Humanities, Algebraic Combinatorics and Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication](#) by the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



[Environmental Humanities](#) and Duke University Press are participating in the [LYRABIS Open Access Community Investment Program \(OACIP\)](#).

Environmental Humanities is a peer-reviewed, international, bi-annual OA journal that publishes interdisciplinary scholarship around environmental issues. The journal does **not** charge an author fee (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



[AmeliCA](#) is a communication infrastructure for scholarly publishing and open science that focuses on a non-profit publishing model to preserve the scholarly and open nature of scientific communication. It is a multi-institutional community-driven initiative supported by UNESCO and led by Redalyc and CLACSO.

Funding via the [KU Leuven Fund for Fair OA](#)



[SCOAP3](#) (the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) is a consortium of libraries, funding agencies and research centers who support journals in the domain of particle physics that want to convert to an OA model **without author fee** (free for readers, free for authors).

Funding via [KU Leuven Libraries](#)

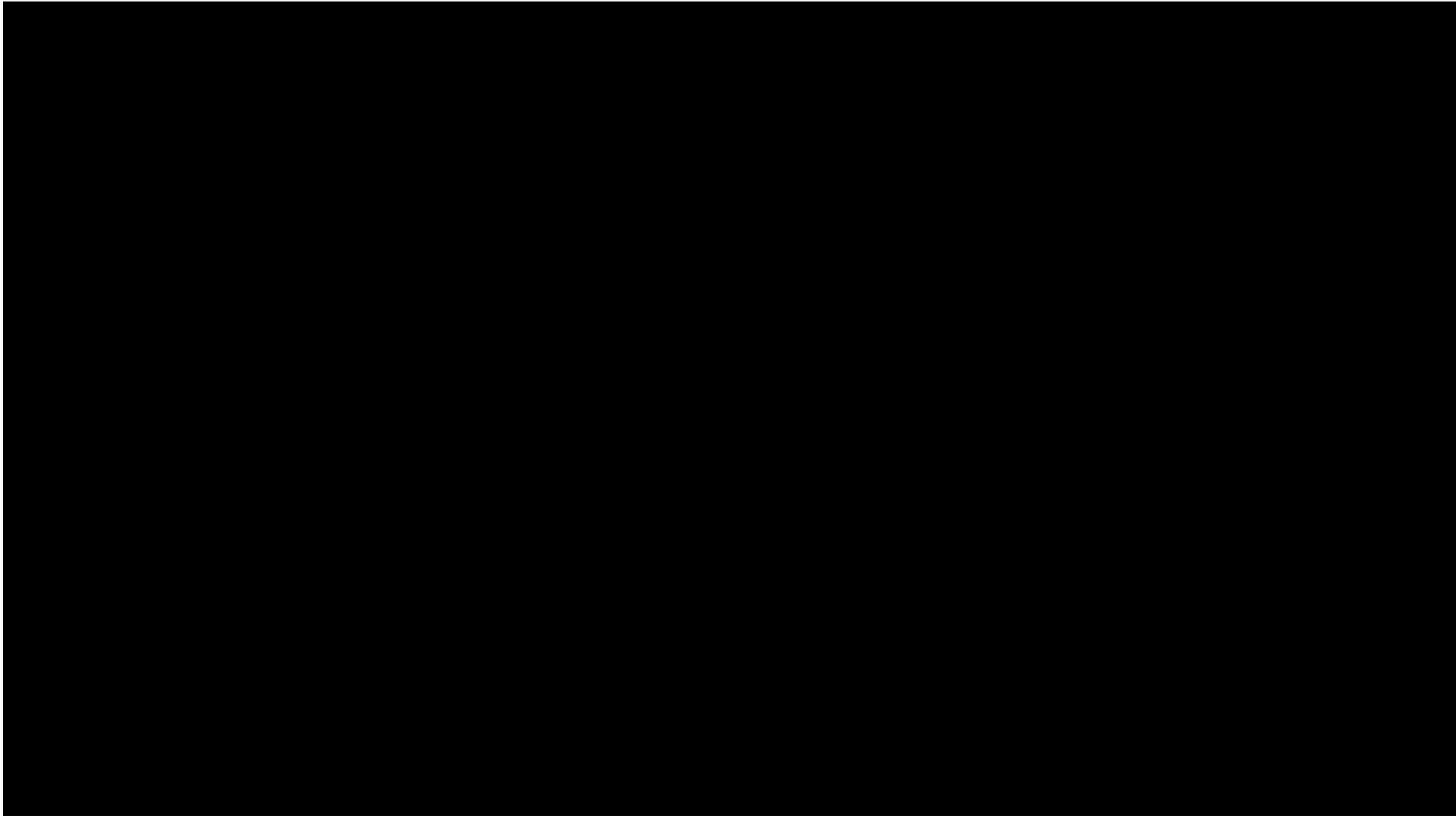


[Trismegistos](#) is a platform aiming to surmount barriers of language and discipline in the study of texts from the ancient world, particularly late period Egypt and the Nile valley (roughly BC 800 - 800 AD). The database consists of various components: texts, archives, people and places.

Funding via [KU Leuven Libraries Artes](#)

# Support for OA books published by Leuven University Press





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6yPEiaMn90> ; learn more about the readership data : Mesotten, Laura (2021), What's in a Number?

16 A Closer Look at Open Access Readership Data, Part One, <https://dhcommons.hypotheses.org/84> and Mesotten, Laura (2021), What's in a Number? 7A  
Open Access Readership Data, Part Two, <https://dhcommons.hypotheses.org/366>

# No more APCs



# Application process



# Why we launched an APC fund

- Support for scholar-led, non-profit OA journals depending on an APC-based business model
- Stimulate bibliodiversity
- Increase awareness about OA publishing costs
- Increase awareness about for-profit vs. non-profit

# Why we discontinued an APC fund

- Misconception of central APC fund
- Grey zone between for-profit and non-profit
- APC business model is not sustainable
- Large administrative burden and cost



# No transformative agreements



# What are transformative agreements?

- Contracts with publishers that transform the business model underlying scholarly journal publishing, moving from subscription-based reading towards OA publishing
- Typically read-and-publish (R&P) deals



# Why we would want transformative agreements

- More journal articles published in OA
- Why pay a subscription invoice (read) and a multitude of APC invoices (publish) if you can bundle them all in one single invoice?
- Surely this bundling will save us money (discounts, less administration)?
- Surely this bundling will mean that we no longer pay twice for the same content (libraries through subscriptions and authors through APCs)?
- User-friendly for researchers: no more individual bills!
- Often coupled with providing more transparency about costs
- Often coupled with authors retaining copyright
- Can be coupled with automated archiving of published versions in institutional repositories

# Why we don't want transformative agreements

- Not cost-neutral and financially unsustainable in the long run
- Shift subscription budget of libraries to funding OA without altering business structure
- Strengthen oligopoly: the big get bigger and stronger, the small are marginalized even more
- Inequitable: inability to read is exchanged for inability to publish
- Hoover up all library budgets, and thus threaten funding for OA publishers who have never worked with the paywall business model
- We are making profit-driven OA publishing the most user-friendly
- We are funding the further for-profit take-over of scholarly communication
- We are undermining our own negotiation position next time around



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<http://www.kuleuven.be/open-science/fairoafund>



Verbeke, Demmy, and Laura Mesotten (2022), “Library Funding for Open Access at KU Leuven”. *Insights* 35: 1. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.565>



# Further reading

Verbeke, Demmy (2019), Safekeeping Diversity in Scholarly Communication: How ‘Transformative’ Are Recent Agreements? <https://blog.scholarled.org/safekeeping-diversity-in-scholarly-communication>

Verbeke, Demmy (2020), Financing change: KU Leuven’s Fair OA Fund, <https://openaccessbooksnetwork.hcommons.org/2020/12/01/financing-change-ku-leuvens-fair-oa-fund/>

Verbeke, Demmy (2021), Not Only Transformative Agreements, <https://scholarlytales.hcommons.org/2021/03/16/not-only-transformative-agreements>

Mesotten, Laura (2021), What’s in a Number? A Closer Look at Open Access Readership Data, Part One, <https://dhcommons.hypotheses.org/84>

Mesotten, Laura (2021), What’s in a Number? A Closer Look at Open Access Readership Data, Part Two, <https://dhcommons.hypotheses.org/366>

Verbeke, Demmy, and Laura Mesotten (2022), “Library Funding for Open Access at KU Leuven”. *Insights* 35: 1. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.565>