TWO APPROACHES TO SUPPORT FOR OPEN ACCESS

Sustaining the Knowledge Commons
sustainingknowledgecommons.org
A SSHRC Insight Development Project

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ABOUT SUSTAINING THE KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

- Knowledge commons (OA, priorities public interest & scholarship per se)
- Macro transition to OA
- OA APCs
- Resource Requirements for small scholar-led publishers
- Open research approach – blog and dataverse
  - sustainingknowledgecommons.org
  - http://dataverse.scholarsportal.info/dvn/dv/oaapc/

OA APCs

Most (2/3) open access journals do not charge APCs
Roughly there is no changes in the % of Journals that charge APCs in DOAJ compared to 2014 census.

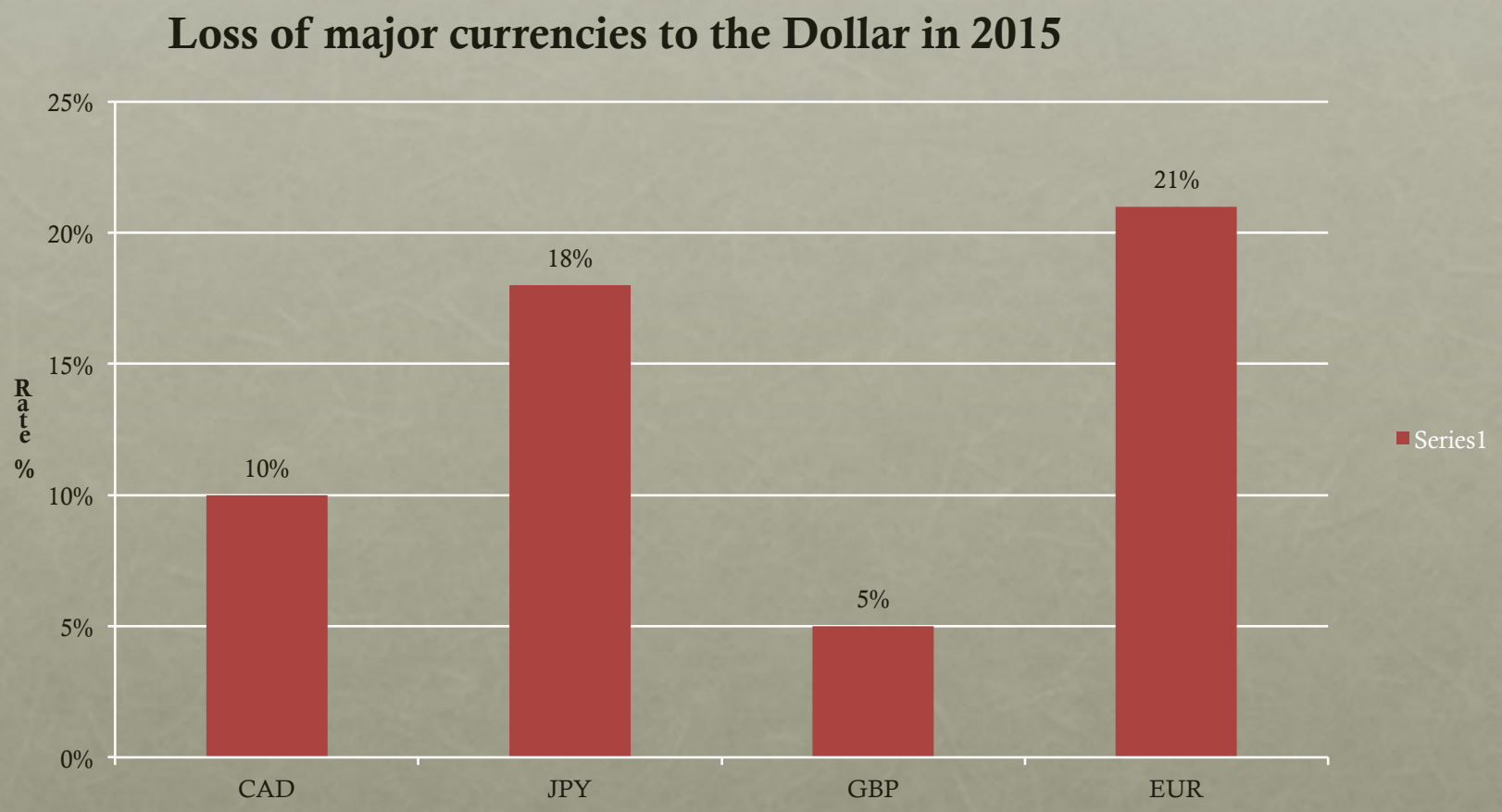
- Average APC $964/ Mode of APC is $0
- Wide variation in APC pricing
- 61% of publishers are commercial in nature

2015 OBSERVATIONS

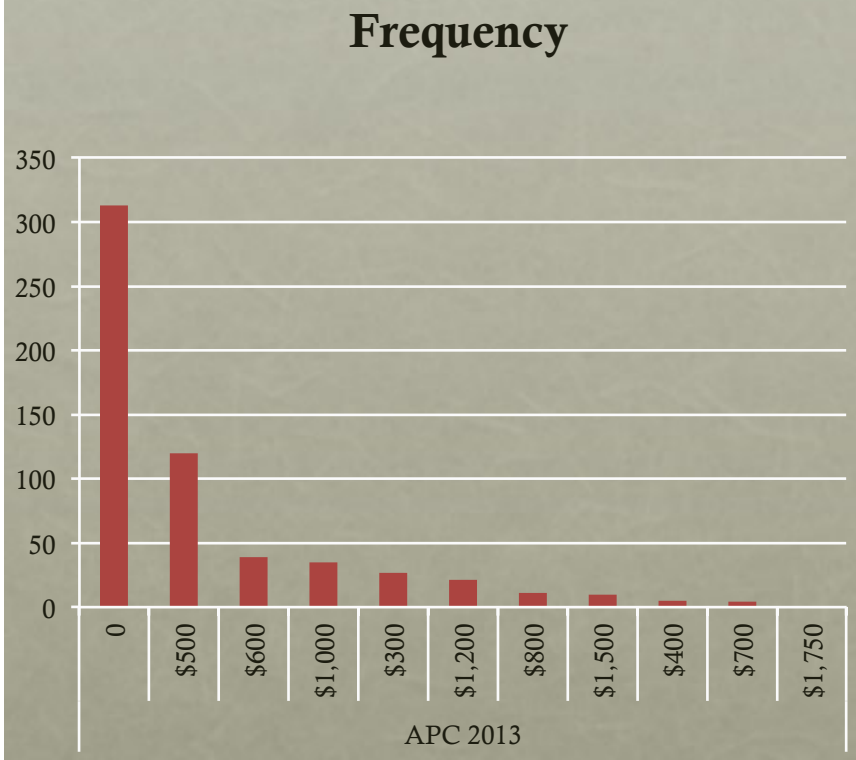
- Different trends
  - BMC : prices decrease in USD and increase in both EUR and GBP
  - Libertas Academica: Average of increase is between 15 to 56%
  - Plos One : Fixed price of $1350

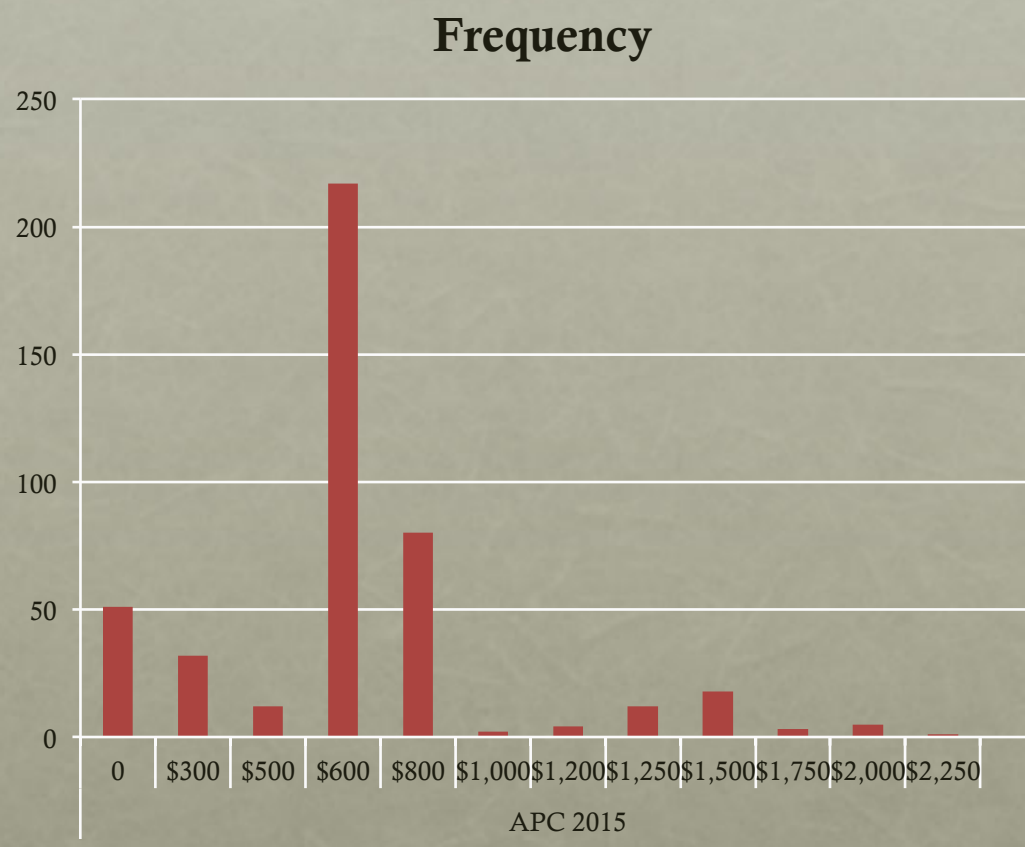
DOES SAME PRICE MEAN SAME COST?

IMPACT OF CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS



PUBLISHER CASE STUDY: HINDAWI





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RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL SCHOLAR-LED PUBLISHERS

- Qualitative to quantitative
- Research question: what resources do small scholar-led journals need to survive and thrive in an open access future?
- Interviews & focus groups with editors of journals that are, or want to be, open access – bilingual (english / french)
- To date: 8 interviews (4 countries), 1 focus group. More to come

EARLY RESULTS
DIVERSITY

- Small journal, 2 issues / year but some articles are monograph length and work includes data deposit in repository and cross-linkages

TYPES OF CONTENT

- Academic or professional (or both)
- Academic + community (local arts scene, social activists, local or ethnic history – cultural groups)
- Conference to newsletter to articles (not peer reviewed) to peer reviewed)

EARLY RESULTS
RESOURCES: PEOPLE

- Academic / professional (service time, volunteer, course release)
- Support staff (e.g. communications with authors and/or community, social media, copyediting or proofreading) – usually part-time, often 1 day / week
- Technical support

EARLY RESULTS

JOURNAL HOSTING & SUPPORT

- Canada: OJS and Érudit
- Library / university hosting and support services really appreciated when available!
- Commitment / good service essential (managing with a half-implemented pilot or test service in the long term is really hard)
- Range: homegrown html to commercial outsourcing

EQUITY FOR SCHOLAR-AS-PUBLISHER

- If your library or institution is willing to pay OA APCs, doesn't it make sense to provide free journal hosting services?
- If you are doing this…your faculty appreciates it, very much!
- The faculty at your university are not just authors, also scholar-publishers, members of editorial boards, etc. Are you providing them with information on how to transition to OA? Some feel neglected!

EARLY RESULTS
SUBSIDY MODEL FOR A SMALL JOURNAL: ONE SCENARIO

$25,000 a year subsidy for small journal (20 articles / year) can cover:

- $8,000 course release (time for senior academic to focus on scholarly quality, close to 1 day / published article)
- $9,000 for part-time professional support staff (about 1 day / week, > 1 day / published article)
- $3,000 for top quality journal hosting (PKP Enterprise, érudit)
- $5,000 for other expenses (e.g. language editing, translation, graphics)
- If you are in a large research library - $25,000 / year roughly equal to your 2013 contribution to Elsevier's increase in profit from 38 to 39% (more tomorrow)

CONCLUSIONS

- OA APC is a model that works for some journals and publishers today
- Most OA journals do not have APCs
- There are many small scholar-led journals that want to be OA that would appreciate some help in the transition
- Library / university journal hosting, technical support and OA information tailored to scholars-as-publishers are appreciated when available

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