

ECS Launches Author Choice Open Access

by Mary Yess

Part of the ECS mission is to disseminate the best research in our fields as widely as possible. In recent years ECS has been working on ensuring that the research published in our journals is truly at the cutting edge of our technical arenas, and that ECS publications have continued to focus on achieving quality through a high standard of peer-review. We are in the fortunate position of publishing four peer-reviewed titles that are among the most highly regarded in their areas.

Now is the time to widen the focus and work on the second part of our mission: dissemination. The arrival of the Internet has changed so much about the way we work and communicate with each other, enabling scientists around the world to exchange ideas and build on each other's work in ways that were unimaginable at the time of our establishment, over a century ago.

The ECS leadership now sees that the models of communication and publication, which have served us so well for so long, are no longer fully meeting the spirit of our mission. It is time for ECS to change its publishing model, and move to embrace the brave new world of Open Access publishing.

In May 2013, the ECS leadership approved the Society's Open Access (OA) goals, which are as follows: (1.) To institute "hybrid" OA for the ECS journals as soon as possible. This allows authors to choose between making their articles OA (pay an Article Processing Charge or "APC" or use an article credit) or having their articles remain behind the paywall. (2.) To keep developing an OA plan to make our journals free and open to all: authors, readers, and libraries.



What Is Open Access?

For those not already familiar with the concept, Open Access means that an article is freely available online to anyone who wishes to see it, so the reader doesn't have to pay for it, nor does the reader have to belong to an institution that subscribes to the journal in which the article appears.

Instead, the costs of publication are paid upfront before an accepted article is published (usually by funding institutions, employers, or authors, rather than afterward by readers or their institutions). Open Access is a move toward disseminating the results of important scientific work more widely through removing subscription barriers, and thereby making the outputs of research accessible to anyone with an Internet connection who may need or want to see them. (For those who would like a more comprehensive introduction to OA, Peter Suber's article is a great place to start: <http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>.)



ECS and Open Access

It is, however, a big step for ECS. Up until the end of 2013, ECS funded its journal publications activities almost exclusively through subscriptions. Moving toward OA will require a change to the way we finance our journals. The challenge for us as a nonprofit society publisher is how to put the best OA business model in place for the future that will allow us to sustain excellence throughout our journals, while enabling Open Access.

Our long-term goal is to move away from the subscriptions model entirely, and to truly free the science and allow totally unrestricted access to the important work that is going on in our fields. The research that ECS publishes has a direct impact on the sustainability issues facing our planet—energy supply, access to clean water, and other issues. The more widely this research can be accessed, the greater the likelihood of developments emerging that can make a difference in our world.

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As a first step, ECS is embarking on its OA journey with a mixed funding model for enabling Open Access, currently including Article Processing Charges and subscriptions. As of the beginning of February, all of the ECS journals are now “hybrid” Open Access journals (Author Choice Open Access), where authors may choose whether or not to make their articles immediately available as Open Access.

How Does It Work?

Authors who choose to make their article Open Access will either be levied an Article Processing Charge (APC) on acceptance, or they may use an article credit in place of the charge. For 2014 the APC will be USD \$800, but ECS members, ECS meetings attendees, and subscribers will receive some automatic article credits. ECS members, both individual and institutional, will receive one Article Credit per member (or named member representative) for use in 2014. For any subsequent articles that a member wishes to make immediately available as Open Access that calendar year, and no other article credit exists, ECS is offering a discounted membership rate for the Article Processing Charge of USD \$200 (for 2014). Authors belonging to an institution that subscribes to ECS journals are entitled to unlimited article credits in place of APCs for the duration of 2014, if they wish to publish their articles as Open Access.

Attendees of the 225th ECS Meeting in Orlando, Florida (Spring 2014) and the 226th ECS Meeting in Cancun, Mexico (Fall 2014) will also receive one article credit (for use for up to 12 months after the meeting) for each meeting they attend.

Currently ECS is not passing on the full costs of publication to the authors and hopes to be able to keep article processing charges at a moderate level. This policy will be reviewed at the end of 2014.

Articles that are immediately Open Access will be flagged as freely available at the Table of Contents level (and in TOC alerts) and at the abstract level in our Digital Library. The usage license under which they are made OA will also be visible. Readers can then follow the link to the full text if they wish to, and will be able to download it in its entirety regardless of their subscriber status.

There are several reasons why authors would want to publish their articles Open Access. Authors may believe, as ECS does, that quality, peer-reviewed scientific research should be freely available to anyone who wishes to read it. In addition, studies across academic disciplines show that articles that are published as Open Access are downloaded more frequently. Finally, bodies that fund research are increasingly mandating that any output of that research is made Open Access as soon as it is published.

The screenshot shows a web interface for ECSxPress manuscript submission. At the top, there are four tabs: 'Institution/Dual Publication' (checked), 'Financials', 'Author Choice Open Access' (selected), and 'Author Review Suggestions'. The main content area is titled '*Open Access Publication' and contains the following text: 'ECS now offers authors the choice of publishing their article as Open Access. For those who wish to publish their work as Open Access, an Article Processing Charge (of USD \$800) will be levied once the work has been accepted for publication, unless the author belongs to a subscribing institution or is an ECS member. (Please see our [FAQs](#))'. Below this is a question: 'Do you wish to publish your paper as Open Access?' with two radio button options: 'Yes, I/we wish to publish this paper as Open Access. (Please Answer Sections A, B and C only)' and 'No, I/we DO NOT wish to publish this paper as Open Access. (Please Answer Section D only)'. The next section is 'A - Open Access Charges' with the instruction 'Please select one of the following:' and four radio button options: 'I agree to pay the USD \$800 Article Processing Charge', 'I belong to a subscribing institution and am therefore entitled to claim an Article Credit for this article to be published as Open Access', 'I am an ECS member and am claiming my Article Credit for this article to be published as Open Access (or if I have already used my Article Credit I agree to pay an Article Processing Charge at the member discount rate of USD \$200)', and 'I attended the 225th ECS Meeting in Orlando, Florida (Spring 2014) and am claiming my Article Credit' and 'I attended the 226th ECS Meeting in Cancun, Mexico (Fall 2014) and am claiming my Article Credit'. The next section is 'B - Open Access Publishing Agreement' with the instruction 'Please select one of the following:' and two radio button options: 'Yes, We agree to the ECS Open Access Publishing Agreement' and 'No, We do not agree to the ECS Open Access Publishing Agreement as it is written. We will print the Open Access Publishing Agreement, make any necessary changes, complete and sign the agreement, and mail it to the ECS Editorial Office. We understand that our manuscript will not be published without a completed Open Access Publishing Agreement'. The final section is 'C - Open Access License Type' with the instruction 'Authors who have chosen to publish their papers as Open Access must select an Appropriate Creative Commons License to define the conditions of use they wish to attach to their work. (For help with the license types, please see the [Creative Commons site](#) or contact us at oa@electrochem.org). I/we wish to publish this paper as Open Access with the following usage license (please select ONE):' and two radio button options: 'Creative Commons Attribution Only (CC BY) License' and 'Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial No Derivatives (CC BY-NC-ND) License'.

A screenshot of the Author Choice Open Access screen in the ECSxPress manuscript submission system.

Open Access and Copyright

In the spirit of allowing maximum access to the outputs of research, in an Open Access environment the standard copyright agreements between authors, their publishers, and the end user no longer apply in the same way.

In place of a copyright transfer, authors who wish to make their article Open Access are asked to sign an exclusive Open Access Publishing Agreement with ECS. Copyright will remain with the author; and the author will need to select a Creative Commons usage license to attach to the work, which will define how the article may be used by others.

ECS offers authors a choice of two Creative Commons usage licenses. Some advocates of Open Access believe that CC BY, as the most liberal of the licenses, is the most appropriate license under which to publish Open Access content (see <http://oaspa.org/why-cc-by/>), and in some cases, where funding bodies mandate Open Access publishing, they mandate a CC BY license. However, authors may wish to choose the CC BY-NC-ND license instead, which limits use to non-commercial use (-NC), and restricts others from creating derivative works (-ND). More information about the licenses can be found on the Creative Commons website (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/>).

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If authors choose a CC BY-NC-ND license (non-commercial, no derivatives), ECS's Open Access Publishing Agreement asks that ECS be granted rights they have always had in the traditional publishing model: others may not use the work for commercial purposes without getting permission from ECS, and the author grants to ECS the exclusive right to use the work for commercial purposes and to sublicense it to others. To find out more about the publishing agreement, go to http://www.electrochem.org/oa/publishing_agreement/.

The Future of OA for ECS

ECS ultimately aims to achieve full Open Access across its four peer-reviewed journals, but we have not yet determined the most appropriate business model. As a nonprofit society we need to consider many elements of the way we work, and how publishing fully-OA journals will change those. While we do further research and further modelling, we realize we need to be offering authors the option of making their articles Open Access right away. Author Choice Open Access satisfies the immediate needs of authors.

Throughout the planning of our OA program, ECS has been collaborating with SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (www.sparc.arl.org). SPARC is a catalyst for action and collaborates with other stakeholders to stimulate new scholarly practices to ensure Open Access, and they have been tremendously helpful to, and supportive of ECS. "We are excited to see a major professional society make such a bold move toward open access," said Heather Joseph, Executive Director of SPARC. "The Electrochemical Society's plans will benefit the research community, universities, libraries, and the general public by making critical scientific findings more widely and rapidly available. The strategy ECS is pursuing is a critical development in the ongoing move toward open access within scholarly publishing. It demonstrates that professional societies can move boldly and decisively to increase the availability of important research."

During 2014 we will be working to put together a model for our future where every article we publish will be freely available to anyone who wishes to read it. We hope you will support us through these exciting and challenging times.



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Join the Discussion on Redcat:
tinyurl.com/nkzvljo



CHORUS

As part of the Society's Open Access initiative, ECS is pleased to announce that it has become a signatory to the Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States. CHORUS, as it is known, is a nonprofit public-private partnership to increase public access to peer-reviewed publications that report on federally-funded research. CHORUS will provide a full solution for agencies to comply with the U.S. OSTP memo on public access to peer-reviewed scientific publications for federally-funded research. It will build on publishers' existing infrastructure to enhance public access to research literature, avoiding duplication of effort, minimizing cost to the government, and ensuring the continued availability of the research literature.

CHORUS utilizes current and developing tools, resources, and protocols for identification, discovery, access, preservation, and compliance (such as CrossRef, FundRef, and ORCID), ensuring continued innovation in the delivery of scholarly communication.

In brief (when CHORUS is up and running), an author would identify his/her funding sources when submitting a paper for publication. Through CHORUS, publishers take care of everything else an author needs for compliance. By choosing a journal that uses CHORUS for compliance with their funding source, authors will not have to sort out complex requirements, manually deposit articles, or work through rules about versions and embargoes.

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Readers will be able to search for and view these articles in context, through the journals in which they are published. This allows for up-to-date information on any changes, corrections, or retractions that may have been added to the article, along with links to related articles, commentaries, or editorials. Readers can discover these publicly-available articles through their usual channels—Google, PubMed, and other sources.

CHORUS is a cooperative effort involving publishers, federal agencies, resource partners, associations, and other organizations involved in scholarly publishing. Since the passage of the America COMPETES Act in 2010, the publishing community has been working closely with federal agencies that fund research to expand access to scholarly publications. CHORUS is an expression of this collaboration. Collectively, the more than 100 publishers (both commercial and nonprofit) that support CHORUS, produce the vast majority of the articles reporting on federally-funded research. CHOR, Inc., the organization behind CHORUS, is in the process of applying for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status.

Note: The information in this article was taken from the CHORUS website: <http://chorusaccess.org/>.