

AGI 1: Diamond Open Access – The final step?

Time: Monday 16:15–18:15

Location: KH 00.011

Invited Talk AGI 1.1 Mon 16:15 KH 00.011
Diamond Open Access: Misconceptions, Systemic Constraints, Potentials — •ULRICH HERB — Saarland University, Saarbrücken

Open Access has expanded considerably: in 2024, about 50% of articles were published openly, mostly via gold and hybrid models. Yet dissatisfaction with APC-based publishing, concerns about inequitable participation, and the limited impact of transformative agreements have shifted attention toward Diamond Open Access (DOA), where neither authors nor readers pay. Although DOA's share doubled from 3% in 2015 to 6% in 2024, it remains marginal and has plateaued since 2021. This contribution examines misconceptions and structural blind spots. DOA is often treated as a coherent model*scholar-led, non-profit, free of charge*although these traits do not necessarily coincide. Journals and publishers still act as key quality signals; despite reform efforts, prestige remains decisive, limiting uptake of new or low-visibility DOA venues. The idea that DOA is inherently cheaper is also misleading: studies and practice show substantial costs for editorial work, infrastructure, compliance, quality assurance, coordination, and scaling*often underestimated in non-profit settings. Sustainability concerns add to this. While niche and community-driven models show that DOA can succeed under specific disciplinary conditions, such cases rarely scale, raising questions about DOA's capacity to drive broader transformation. The talk argues that DOA is valuable but no panacea; without realistic assessments of costs, incentives, and governance, the risk of renewed cycles of hype and disillusionment remains.

Invited Talk AGI 1.2 Mon 16:45 KH 00.011
Green, Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Rhodium etc: SciPost's stance on modern publishing business models — •JEAN-SÉBASTIEN CAUX — Institute of Physics, University of Amsterdam

Scientific publishing is currently undergoing a vast transition away from traditional models based on subscriptions to journals from corporate or scientific society-led publishers. Instead, a new ecology of Green, Gold, Diamond, Platinum/Palladium has sprung up from a variety of service providers, dressed in sometimes (deliberately?) obscure business practices. Confusion is rife as to whose interests are being served, and who pays the price.

Within this context, SciPost aims to provide a community-driven solution which puts scientific quality back at the forefront, and offers

an alternative business model achieving significant cost slashing and aiming to deprecate profit-making in the publishing industry.

This talk will deliver an update on the current status of the reform of publishing in general, and SciPost in particular. It will also share thoughts on experiences gained, and provide perspectives for a successful transition to a healthier scientific publishing future both for scientists and the academic institutions who support and employ them.

Invited Talk AGI 1.3 Mon 17:15 KH 00.011
Expanding the Diamond Open Access Publishing Model: on the how's and why's — •MARGO BARGHEER — Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

While the beneficial aspect of open access, more scientific content freely available for everyone, goes without a doubt, the extractive model of commercially provided open access calls for action. Transformative agreements seem to work too slowly, article processing charges cause budget problems and new injustice. Diamond Open Access as the publishing model without fees for reading or publishing has gained significant traction in the last years. Mostly institutionally provided or community-led with light-weight technology and infrastructures, Diamond Open Access is charged with the expectation to bring a better, fairer and more inclusive system of scholarly communication than the one offered by profit-oriented publishers. The presentation will offer some trends on the growth of Diamond Open Access and show pathways for scientific communities to promote stable and organic growth of Diamond Open Access, thereby moving towards a more self-reliant publication system that serves their disciplinary needs.

Discussion AGI 1.4 Mon 17:45 KH 00.011

Discussion — MARGO BARGHEER¹, JEAN-SÉBASTIEN CAUX², ULRICH HERB³, •UWE KAHLERT⁴, and ESTHER TOBSCHALL⁵ —

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Is Diamond Open Access the next and maybe final step in the transformation of the scientific publication system? What are the chances and what are potential obstacles? After the speakers have considered (Diamond) Open Access from different perspectives, these questions will now be discussed with them.