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What is a Transformative Agreement?



Transformative Agreements are a type of contract between publishers and institutions (such as a university, research organization, hospital, or library).



They facilitate the transition of organizations from a subscription-based publishing model, where articles can only be accessed by subscribers, to an Open Access model. In the Open Access model, there is usually a charge for authors to publish articles (APC), but the articles are then freely available for everyone to read – no subscription required.



Why Open Access?

Transformative Agreements drive us towards a future where knowledge is freely accessible to all, fostering innovation, discovery, and progress. They are one of many actions leading to a transition to Open Access and Open Science. For more information on what we do at Karger, visit: karger.com/pages/open-access



How does a Transformative Agreement work?

To facilitate the transition to Open Access, **Transformative Agreements cover both subscription access to journals and Open Access publishing.** They include:

- Access to subscription-based content: Institutions retain access to journal collections.
- Open Access publishing: Researchers can publish their articles as Open Access without additional charges.



Why are Transformative Agreements beneficial?



For Institutions:

- **Cost-Effective:** they provide access to valuable research and Open Access publishing rights, minimizing budget impact compared to acquiring each component individually.
- **Support Open Access Goals:** they facilitate faster and wider knowledge dissemination, enhancing research impact.
- **Meet Funders' Requirements:** they comply with Open Access mandates used by funding bodies and other organizations.



For Authors:

- **Increased Visibility:** Open Access makes research more accessible, leading to greater visibility and citations.
- **Expanded Readership:** anyone can freely read and benefit from the research, including researchers, practitioners, policy makers and the general public.
- **Compliance with Funders' Policies:** authors meet requirements for Open Access publishing, ensuring their work reaches a wider audience.



For the General Public:

- **Access to Knowledge:** anyone can read and learn from research without encountering paywalls or subscription fees.
- **Community Engagement:** Open Access promotes collaboration, dialogue, and the democratization of knowledge.
- **Societal Impact:** research findings are readily available to inform policies, advance science, and address global challenges.