

Community over Commercialization

How can academic libraries support Diamond Open Access?

Martina Benz, Team Open Science,
KIM University of Konstanz
Konstanz, 24.10.2024



Community over Commercialization

- Challenges:
 1. Definitions and why they matter
 2. Existing (funding) pathways
- Developments on the global, regional, national level
- ...some ideas

Open Access Days in Cologne in September 2024
**DEAL, diamond and beyond – Open Access
between sovereignty and dependency**

Discussion: What is your view on the current developments and how do you comment on these discussions from your (national, disciplinary) perspective?

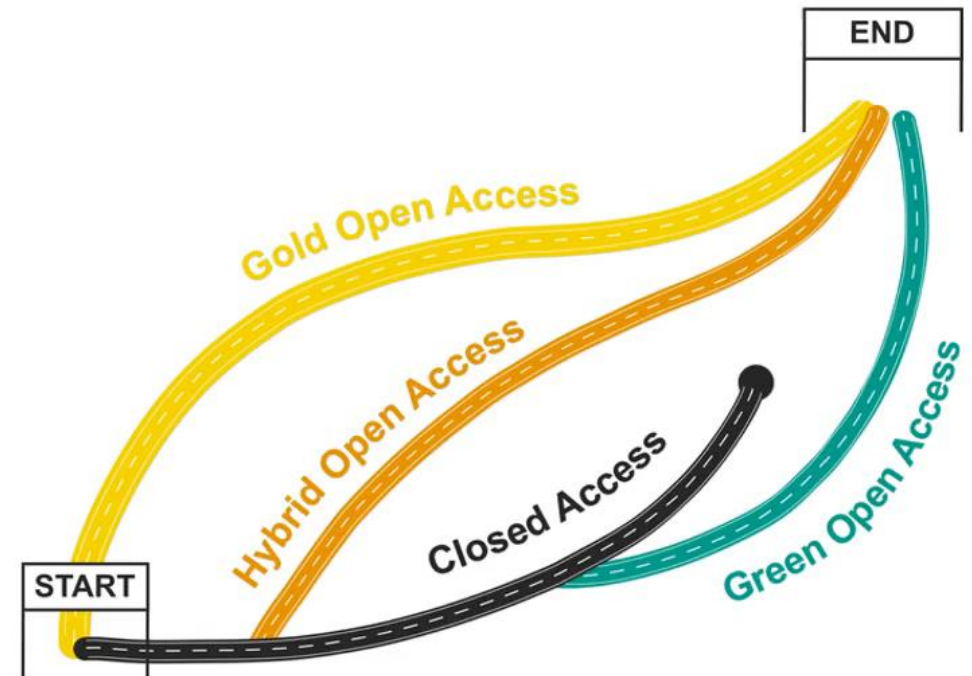


Theme of the international open access week, download from <https://www.openaccessweek.org/resources>

What is Diamond Open Access?

- Distinction between different publishing *pathways*:
Green and gold,
 - and *financing models*
 - How does „diamond“ fit in the picture?
- 1) Diamond Open Access = Free of APC/BPC
 - 2) Diamond Open Access= Scholar-led: controlled by academic institutions, scholars, scholarly communities...
 - 3) Diamond Open Access = non-commercial, non profit,...

„In the Diamond Open Access Model, **not-for-profit, non-commercial** organizations, associations or networks publish material that is made available online in digital format, **is free of charge** for readers and authors **and does not allow commercial and for-profit re-use.**“ (Fuchs/Sandoval 2013)



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Diamond Open Access

„‘Diamond’ Open Access refers to a scholarly publication model in which journals and platforms **do not charge fees** to either authors or readers. Diamond Open Access journals **represent community-driven, academic-led and -owned publishing initiatives**. Serving a fine-grained variety of generally **small-scale, multilingual, and multicultural scholarly communities**, these journals and platforms embody the concept of **bibliodiversity**. For all these reasons, Diamond Open Access journals and platforms are **equitable by nature and design**.“
(Ancion et al. 2022, Diamond Open Access Action Plan)

Community-led

equity

Small-scale

Academic-owned

Free of charge

bibliodiversity

multicultural

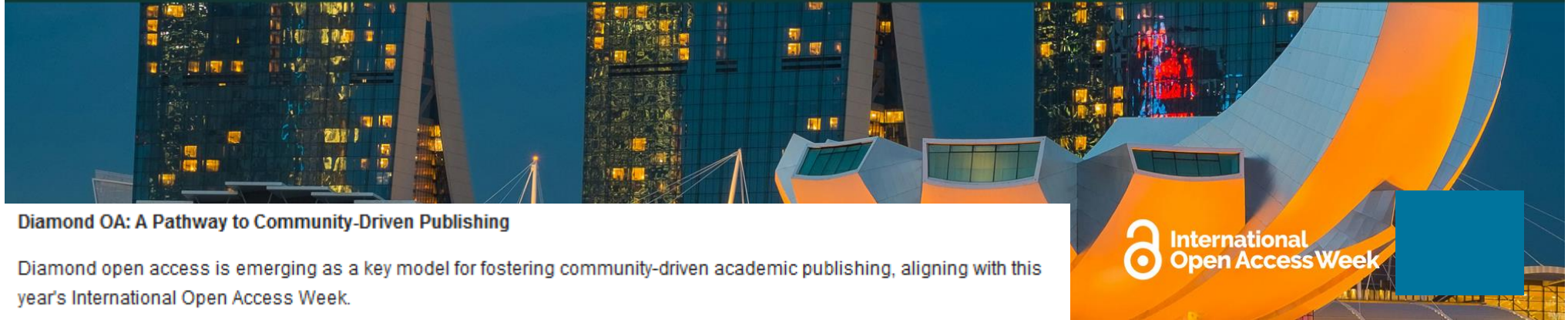
Ancion, Z., Borrell-Damián, L., Mounier, P., Rooryck, J., & Saenen, B. (2022). **Action Plan for Diamond Open Access**. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6282403>

OA
Week

2024

Open Access Week 2024: Community Over Commercialization

24 October 2024 | Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

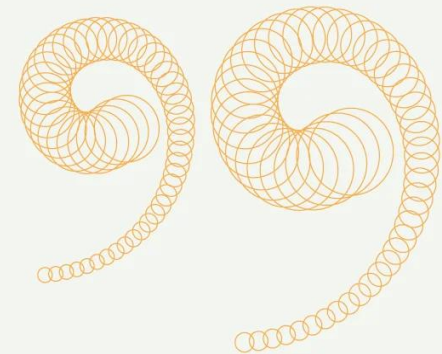


Diamond OA: A Pathway to Community-Driven Publishing

Diamond open access is emerging as a key model for fostering community-driven academic publishing, aligning with this year's International Open Access Week.

 International
Open Access Week

Open research leads to a world
where ideas and innovations spread
faster and reach more people.



OA
Week

2024

Open Access Week 2024: Community Over Commercialization

24 October 2024 | Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

Diamond OA: A Pathway to Community-Driven Publishing

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A prime example of this shift is the recent strategic partnership between the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU) and MDPI. This collaboration leverages MDPI's extensive experience in managing open access journals, supporting the SIU's goal of enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of scholarly communication. "This move towards community-driven publishing reflects our commitment to advancing accessible and inclusive scholarly communication," wrote Dr. Peter C. Black, Editor-in-Chief of the SIUJ journal, in a January 2024 editorial.

MDPI partners with over 180 societies in a variety of ways to support scholarly communities and expand the reach of open access.

<https://sciforum.net/event/OAW2024?section=#welcome-message>

Fast-growing open-access journals stripped of coveted impact factors

Web of Science delists some 50 journals, including one of the world's largest

28 MAR 2023 • 5:55 PM ET • BY [JEFFREY BRAINARD](#)

Articles in special issues account for **most of the meteoric growth of MDPI** since it was founded in 2010. Formerly called the Multi-disciplinary Digital Publishing Institute, it has since become the largest publisher of open-access papers and the fourth-largest publisher of scholarly papers overall, producing some 400 journals. Publishers of open-access papers typically charge authors a fee and make them immediately free to read when published. In **2022, nearly 100 MDPI journals that have impact factors published more than 17,000 special issues, containing 187,000 articles, according to an unpublished analysis by Paolo Crosetto, an economist at France's National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment, and Pablo Gómez Barreiro of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. (Their analysis extends a [2021 version](#).)** Some MDPI titles published four special issues a day.

Criteria for Diamond Open Access



1. **Persistend Identifiers:** Valid and confirmed ISSN
2. **Scholarly Journal:** journal that selects papers via an explicitly described evaluation process before and/or after publication, in line with accepted practices in the relevant discipline
3. **Open Access with open licence:** All journal output is published under open licence
4. **No fees:** Publication in the journal is not contingent on the payment of fees of any kind (e.g. article processing charges or membership dues)
5. **Open to all authors:** Authorship in the journal should not be limited to any type of affiliation.
6. **Community-owned:** The journal title must be owned by public or not-for-profit organisations (or parts thereof) whose mission includes performing or promoting research and scholarship. The journal should explain its ownership status on its webpage.

Armengou, C., Bargheer, M., Gingold, A., Holsinger, S., Laakso, M., Mitchell, D., Mounier, P., Pölönen, J., Rooryck, J., Ševkušić, M., Souyioultzoglou, I., & Varachkina, H. (2024). **Operational Diamond OA Criteria for Journals**. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.12721408>

Challenges of DOA in Germany

Germany leading actor in Transformative agreements in the European Research Area

Taşkın, Z., Melinščak Zlodi, I., Laakso, M., Torny, D., Arasteh, S., Bargheer, M., Klaus, T., Schima, J., Agnoloni, T., Peruginelli, G., Davidson, A., Franczak, M., María Ángeles, C. B., de Pablo Llorente, V., Dobson, H., & Heyman, J. (2024).

D5.2 National overviews on sustaining institutional publishing in Europe (1.0).

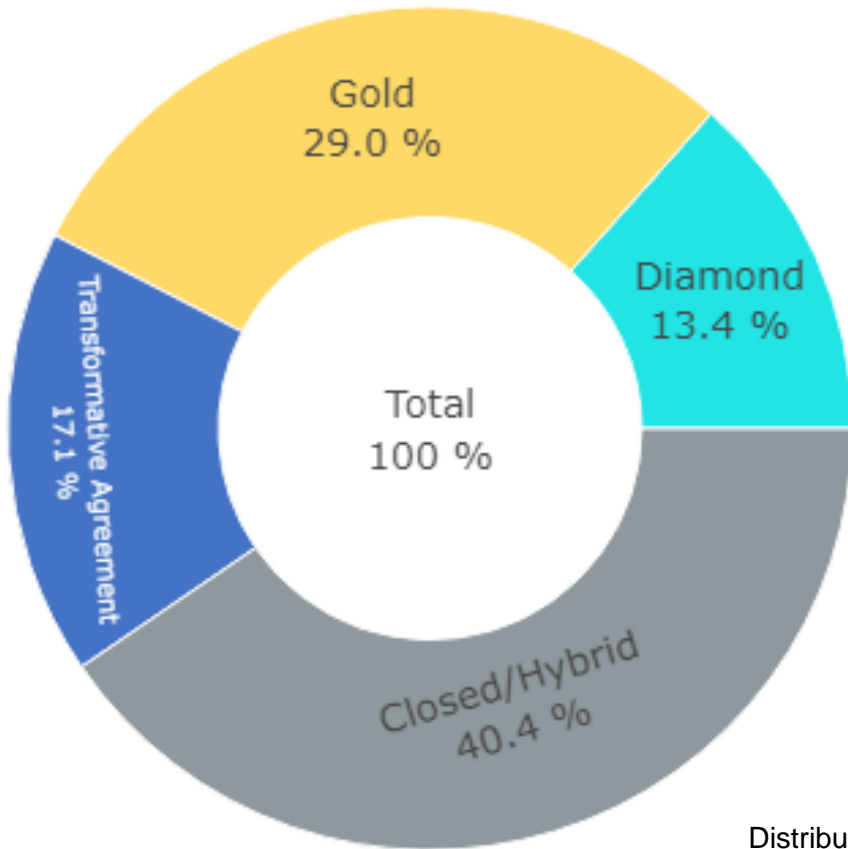
Zenodo.
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11383941>

In Germany itself, the most prominent transformative agreements have been negotiated by the DEAL Konsortium. So far, DEAL has negotiated 3 agreements among German institutions and commercial publishers (Wiley, Elsevier, and Springer Nature) and thereby bears witness to the successful market penetration of commercial publishers. This success can be seen in further numbers: From 2020 to 2022 researchers in Germany published more than 75,000 publications in the journals of DEAL publishers. Despite these numbers, the concept and the associated costs of DEAL contracts do not prove suitable for implementing a sustainable OA transformation. Not only is the access to publications published within the context of DEAL contracts still restricted to members of institutions participating in the respective DEAL contract, the total cost of APCs for an institution depend on its research output and is therefore not predictable with certainty. As of now, all three DEAL contracts only run until 2028, with the contracts with Elsevier and Springer Nature even including articles that allow for an annual increase of the Publish and Read Fee (Springer Nature) and APCs (Elsevier). Further evidence that transformative agreements such as DEAL are an inefficient tool to transform the scholarly publishing system towards OA is given in a review on transitional agreements in the UK published by JISC in March 2024. Based on the journal flipping rates observed between 2018-2022 the authors conclude it would take “at least 70 years for the big five publishers [Elsevier, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley] to flip their TA titles to OA” (Jisc, Brayman et al. 2024, p.40).

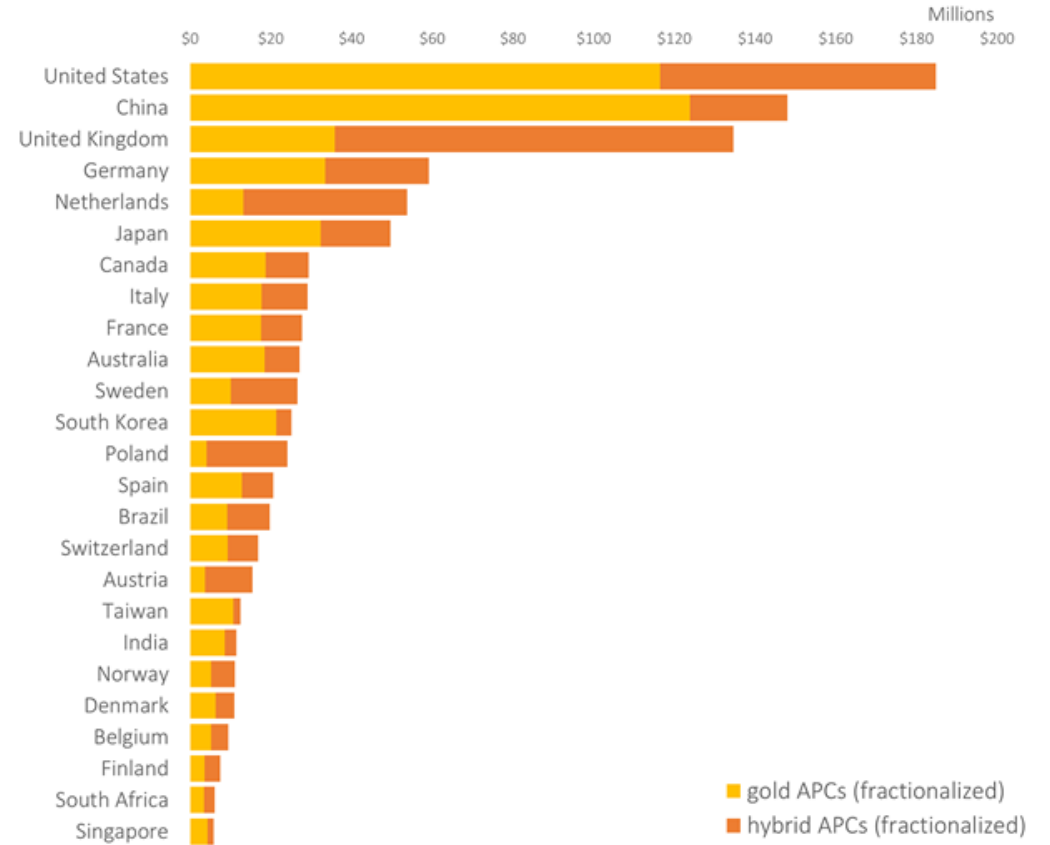
As pointed out by Kramer (2024), in terms of transformative agreements Germany is indeed one of the leading actors in the European Research Area with 54 active transformative agreements in place. It is noteworthy that only two out of the 54 transformative agreements Kramer lists in her study have been negotiated on a national

Taşkın et al. (2024, 79)

Challenges for DOA in Germany



Distribution of journal business models (n=43.639), open-access-monitor.de (Taşkın et al. 2024, 84)

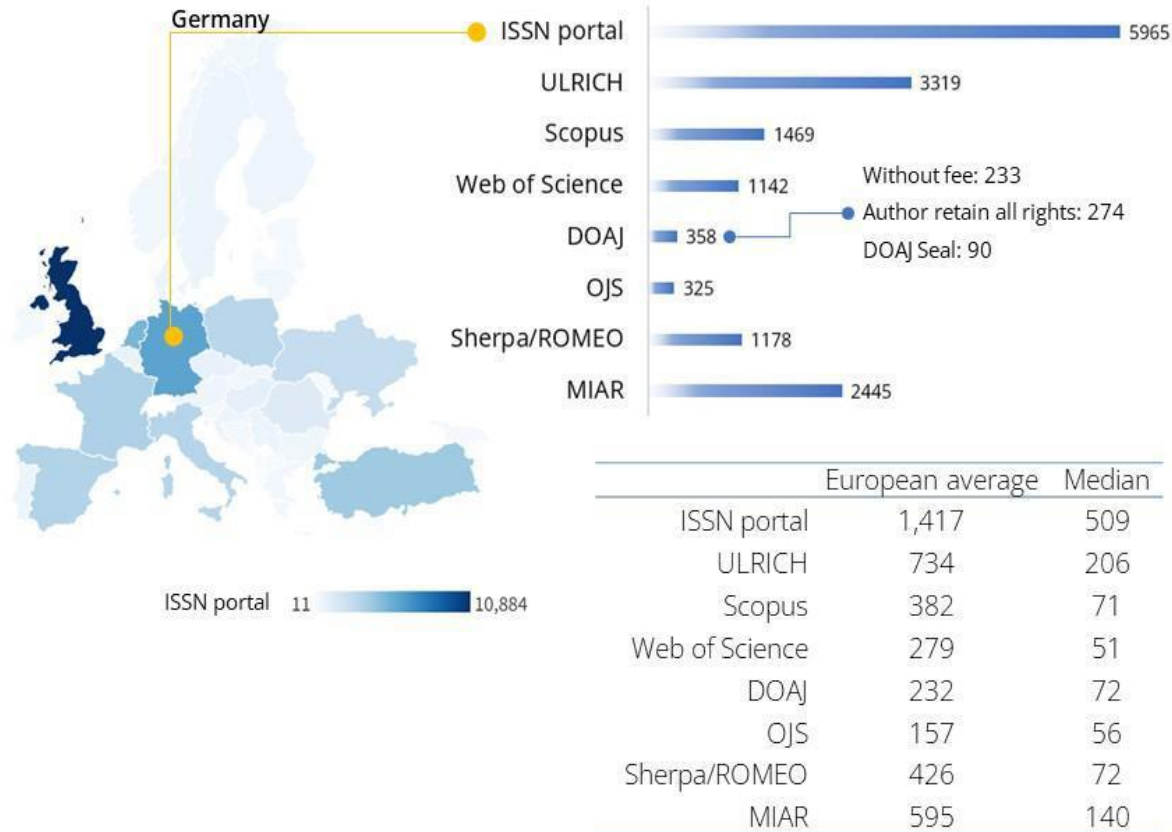


Top 25 countries by amount of APC expenditures 2015-2018 (Taşkın et al. 2024, 80)

Challenges for DOA in Germany



Germany's Scholarly Publishing Journals in numbers



According to the CODRIA-Project, there are 298 DOA journals based in Germany

- Small community-driven journals with low article output
- Main issue: (financial) sustainability
- Marginal in the context of the wider publishing industry (Taubert et al., 2023)

DOA-publishers are usually small-to-medium sized (Taubert, 2024)

Germany's Scholarly Publishing: Journals in numbers (Taksin et al. 2024, 77)

Challenges for DOA in Germany



How to continue to support gold and hybrid OA and at the same time support DOA?!

Abbildung 1:

Entwicklung deutscher Gold-Open-Access-Publikationen (gelb hervorgehoben) im Vergleich zur Gesamtpublikationsmenge 2013–2022. (Quellen: Unpaywall nach publication type = journal-article; Web of Science Zuordnung Autor:innen deutscher Affiliation)

Source: Open-Access-Monitor 2023, <https://open-access-monitor.de/>

Diamond Open Access: Global Paradigm Shift in Scholarly Publishing

UNESCO Global Diamond Open Access Collaboration, see:
<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/diamond-open-access-global-paradigm-shift-scholarly-publishing>



2nd Global Summit on Diamond Open Access, Dec 2024

Recent Developments

ENCOURAGES Member States and the Commission to step up support to the development of aligned institutional and funding policies and strategies regarding not-for-profit open access multi-format scholarly publishing models in Europe with no costs for authors or readers, and to set and implement roadmaps or action plans for a significant expansion of such publishing models;

Council of the European Union, 2023, **Council conclusions on high-quality, transparent, open, trustworthy and equitable scholarly publishing**. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8827-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

Service centre to strengthen diamond open access

[open-access.network](#) > [Services](#) > [News](#) > [Article](#)



German Research Foundation announces 9 million euros in funding for the expansion of the nonprofit OA publication landscape in Germany

DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



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Call for Proposals: "Fresh Momentum for Diamond Open Access"

<https://open-access.network/en/services/news/article/service-centre-to-strengthen-diamond-open-access>

How can academic libraries support DOA?

Some ideas:

Institutional Fair Open Access Funds

Criteria e.g. Fair Open Access Alliance:

1. Transparent ownership
2. Owners retain copyright
3. Open licence
4. Publishing not conditional of fees
5. Fees are low, transparent and proportional

Open-access.network seminar:

Fair Open Access Funds - What libraries can do to promote Diamond Open Access

Wednesday, 6 November 2024 | 1pm - 2:15 pm (CET) | online | The event is held in English.

Guests: Demmy Verbeke (KU Leuven) & Michaela Voigt (Technical University Berlin)



How can academic libraries support DOA? Some ideas:



Consortial Financing Solutions for APC-free Open Access

- Financing Diamond Open Access Journals and book series
- Not necessarily non-profit publishers

- Institutional publishing infrastructures
- Support of **shared infrastructures**, such as the DOAJ, OLH, SciPost and others
- Financial support for **DOA publishers and journals**



How can academic libraries support DOA?

Some ideas:

Awareness and education

- open access is more than funding APC/BPC
- OA as part of Open Science

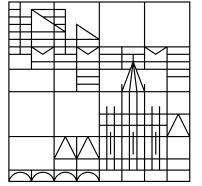
Publishing Support: Help journals to flip to diamond

- What makes journals successfully flip?
- How can we support this?

Policy Development and advocacy:

- including Diamond Open Access in policies
- promoting Diamond Open Access as good scholarly practice





Thank you!

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Literature

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