

Guidelines for the coverage of Open Access fees from the central publication budget

The Cluster of Excellence »Matters of Activity. Image Space Material« is in line with the principles of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) regarding Open Access publications and welcomes the strong science-policy signal of a cap on Open Access fees, which supports conveying to the researchers of one's own institution, other institutions, science policy actors, and the publishing world: Open Access should remain affordable for the public sector and a price development similar to that for subscriptions must be counteracted.¹

The Cluster has its own central publication budget, which can be used to pay fees for Open Access publications upon request. However, in order to spread Open Access more widely during the transformation phase and to promote both individual career paths and institutional reputation in international comparison, it deviates in some respects from the rules for DFG-supported publication funds and adopts proposals of the Open Access Office Berlin. It is further informed by requirements for funding Open Access publications (journals and books) through the University Library HU.

1. In addition to publishing in pure Open Access media, hybrid Open Access is also supported. Authors can thus publish Open Access with almost all journals and publishers. This is due in particular to the interdisciplinary background of the Cluster, since the development towards Open Access is taking place at different speeds and in different ways in the scientific communities. As part of the DEAL project, members of the HU and the MPIKG can publish their articles in subscription-based journals from Wiley, Springer Nature, and Elsevier in the OA model at no additional cost.
2. For articles in scientific journals, the upper limit of Article Processing Charges (APCs) up to a maximum of 2,000 € is covered by central funds, but co-financing with other funds is permitted. In the case of monographs, the maximum funding amount through central funds is 5,000 €, which can also be increased through other funds. This possibility enables proportionate funding while promoting cost awareness for publishing. (Partial) financing of Open Access publication costs for books within the framework of the HU University Library's Open Access grant is recommended (as of 2024, for HU members only).

Please see also:

[Recommendations for Establishing an Open Access Publication Fund by the Open Access Office Berlin](#) (only available in German language)

[DFG »Förderprogramm OA-Publikationskosten«](#)

[Publikationsfonds für OA-Bücher der HU UB](#)

¹ Subscriptions are fees charged for the reading of articles in scientific journals, concerning in particular university libraries. This business model is associated with annual price increases, which increasingly put access to scientific results at risk.