

Amherst College Library Statement on Paying Open Access Author Charges

We believe that the Amherst College Library should respond to the effort to make scholarly research as accessible as possible to scholars and students all over the world by actively supporting open access publishing. OA makes digital access free to users. In the "author pays" model, authors, or their sponsors, pay fees upfront to defray production costs; libraries and readers pay nothing; peer-review is unchanged.

This alternative to traditional subscription-based publishing is championed by Nobel laureate, former National Institutes of Health director and Amherst alumnus Harold Varmus '61. Varmus was not only instrumental in starting the National Library of Medicine's *PubMed Central*, which mirrors open access titles and contains archival content for journals that have decided to make their back issues available for free, but is also co-founder and Chairman of the Board of the *Public Library of Science* (PLOS).

By covering the full costs of production through author fees, rather than levying page charges on authors and then charging readers to access articles open access publishers such as *PLOS* and *BioMed Central* (BMC) have transformed the traditional publishing system.

Open access is having an impact on scholarly publishing. Submission to an open access journal is certain to remove the financial access barriers for potential readers of your work -- and evidence suggests that open access publishing increases the reach and impact of your work.

Funding agencies such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Institutes of Health, and the Rockefeller Foundation have stated policies allowing the use of grants to cover article processing charges. The Library's institutional memberships and subscriptions provide Amherst authors with discounts or waivers on author charges at *PLOS*, *BMC*, and others.

We would like to strengthen our support for Amherst College authors from all disciplines who choose open access publishing. Beginning immediately, funding from the Library will be available to subsidize or pay in full the author charges for *all* peer reviewed, open access journals.

For details, contact Sherre Harrington, sharrington@amherst.edu, (413) 542-2212.

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