

Libraries

FEDERAL SCIENCE
NETWORK

An Introduction to Transformative Agreements in Canada

**Federal Science Library Network (FSLN)
Springer Transformative Agreement**

May 11, 2022

Allison Kelley, Chief FSLN

Nina Bursey, Library Partnerships Officer FSLN

Federal Science Libraries Network



Leverages common systems, tools and content to enhance access to scientific information, support research, and evolve library services.

AAFC

Agriculture
and Agri-Food
Canada

DFO

Fisheries
and Oceans
Canada

ECCC

Environment and
Climate Change
Canada

HC

Health
Canada

NRCan

Natural
Resources
Canada

NRC

National
Research Council
Canada

PHAC

Public Health
Agency of
Canada

Background/Timeline

- Review and analysis of Springer subscription agreement (October 2020-March 2021)
- Roadmap for Open Science issued by the GoC Chief Science Advisor - R4 (Feb 2020)
- Negotiations objectives:
 1. Enable open access publishing for FSLN authored Springer publications
 2. Achieve fair & sustainable pricing and minimize additional cost
- Data collection/analysis/validation and negotiations (Jan-July, 2021)
- Licensing and implementation (August 2021-January 2022)

Outcomes

- 2 year (2022-2023) + 2 option year (2024-2025) agreement
- Perpetual access to Springer's full collection of 2,300+ Journals (increase of 600 titles)
- OA publishing in 2,000+ hybrid journals (subject to corridor thresholds)
- Access and OA publishing for take-over titles
- Fully OA journals/some 3rd party journals/Nature portfolio excluded

Publishing Threshold

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| # of hybrid articles | 111 | 98 | 94 | 82 | 86 | 90 | 92 | 94 | 96 |
| Article growth YoY | - | -12% | -4% | -13% | 5% | 5% | 2.2% | 2.2% | 2.1% |
| Upper corridor | - | - | - | - | - | 95 | 97 | 99 | 101 |
| Lower corridor | - | - | - | - | - | 86 | 87 | 89 | 91 |

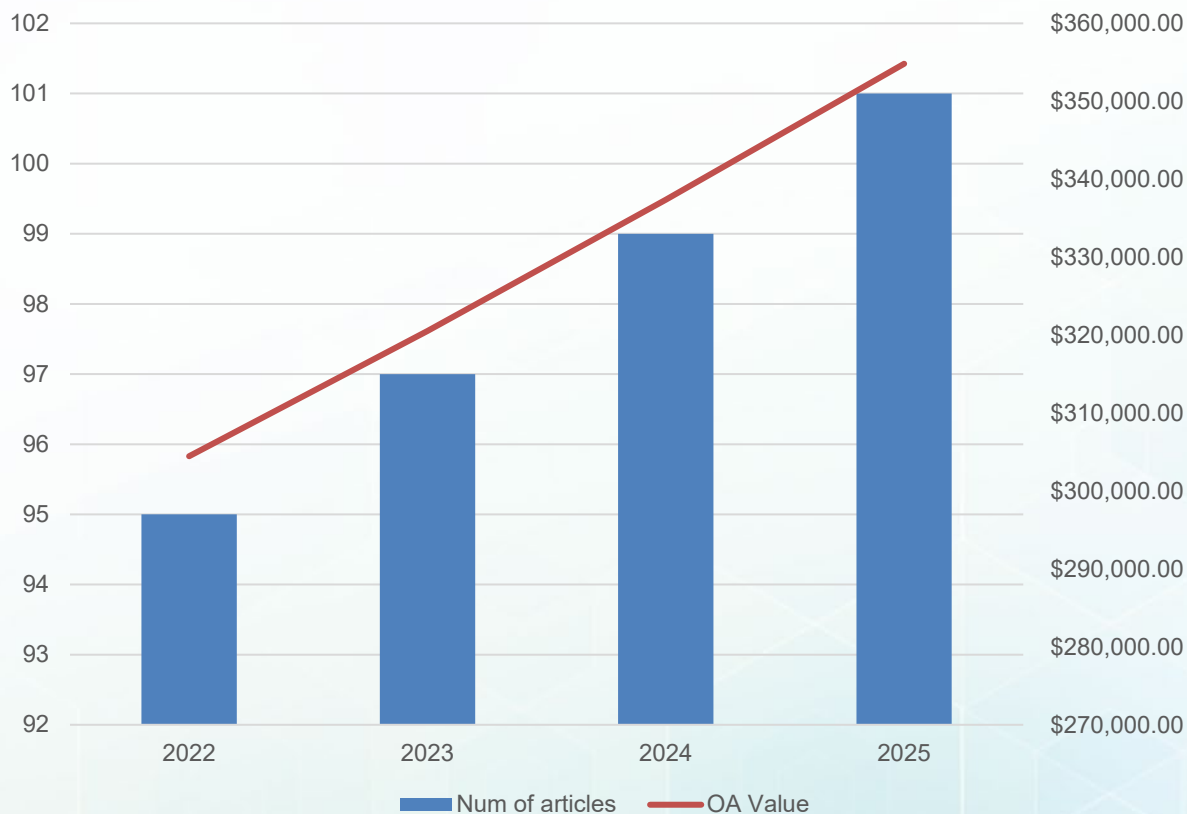
Actual

Projected

Pricing

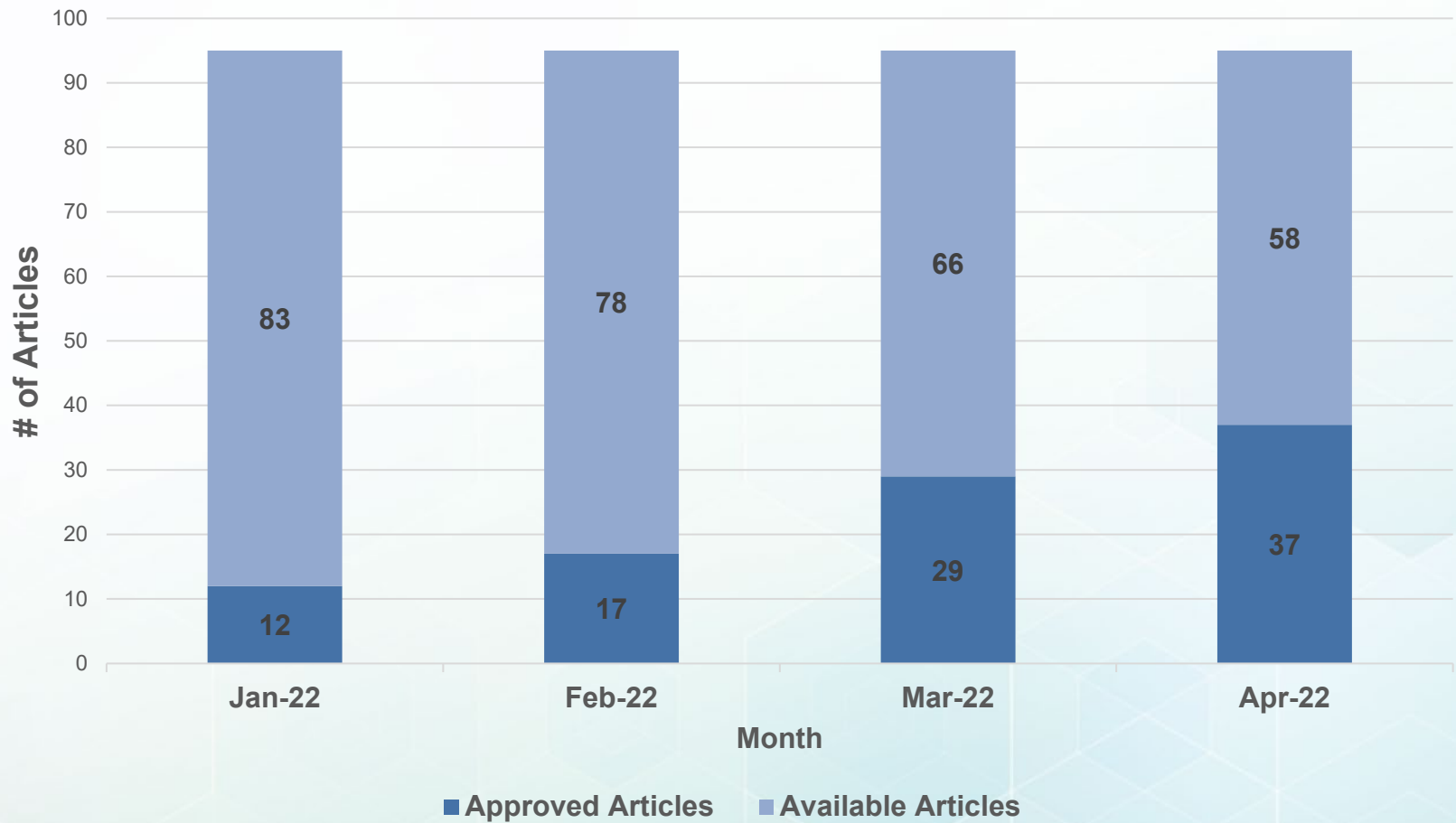
| Year | Annual Increase | |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 2018 | 4% | Subscription agreement |
| 2019 | 4% | |
| 2020 | 4% | |
| 2021 | 3% | |
| 2022 | 4% | Transformative agreement |
| 2023 | 3.8% | |
| 2024 | 3.8% | |
| 2025 | 3.8% | |

Value of OA Publishing 2022-2025 (USD)



Total value of OA publishing: ~\$1.3M USD

Publishing Status YTD



Benefits

- Article approval platform is easy to navigate for both researchers and librarians
- Agreement represents a new value add service for clients, and proves there is researcher demand for publishing agreements in the GoC
- Collectively FSLN is on track to use all available APC credits, facilitating OA publishing for articles that otherwise would be behind a paywall
- Agreement represents a meaningful contribution to departmental open science priorities

Challenges

| Issue | Description |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cost-sharing | -Adjustments to cost-sharing for publishing fees |
| Publishing data | -Historical trends do not necessarily predict future output -Unknown impact of the pandemic on publishing |
| Publishing caps | -Process for collectively managing OA credits -Mechanism to forecast future publication output -Process to add articles if threshold is reached |
| Promotion | -GoC requirements for comms/translations |
| Funding | -Identifying fund source to purchase additional APC credits |
| OA approvals criteria | -Guidelines for rejecting/approving articles |

Lessons Learned

- OA models are continually evolving; prepare for negotiation 'surprises'
- Publishing is unpredictable and caps should be avoided if possible
- Administration of TAs with publishing caps requires flexibility and willingness to adjust approach
- Due to its small size and relatively low publication output FSLN is well positioned to negotiate advantageous agreements

FSLN Open Science Priorities 2022-23

| Priority | Timeline |
|---|--------------|
| Assume role of business owner and launch Federal Open Science Repository | TBD |
| Finalize negotiations and implement TA with American Chemical Society | January 2023 |
| Explore opportunities to add additional federal departments and agencies to the Springer TA | January 2024 |

Thank you

Contact: FSLN-RBSF@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca