Transformative agreements and their headaches: New roles for librarians

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• Founded in 1810

• FTE 5.962

• Employees 4.654

• Researchers 1.700

• Publications in 2019 total 6.810 - whereof 4.768 OA (70% OA)

• Two campuses, north and south of Stockholm

• 22 departments in Medicine and Health Sciences

• Founded in 1996

• FTE 6.448

• Employees 746

• Researchers 489

• Publications in 2019 total 261 – whereof 151 OA (58% OA)

• One campus, south of Stockholm

• 6 departments in Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology, Sciences
Karolinska University Library

- 110 employees, 5 who work with transformative agreements.
- Media budget 50 million SEK

Södertörn University Library

- 33 employees, 1 who works with transformative agreements.
- Media budget 9 million SEK
What is the situation in Sweden?

• Swedish government - publicly funded research open by 2026

• Swedish research funders demand Open Access

• Many new TA:s (transformative agreements) in a short time
Transformative agreements via Bibsam

**Karolinska**
- 2018: 3 agreements
- 2019: 7 agreements
- 2020: 12 agreements

**Södertörn**
- 2018: 3 agreements
- 2019: 5 agreements
- 2020: 10 agreements
What are transformative agreements?

• “Transformative agreements are transitional in that they seek a pathway for a shift away from payment to read and toward payment to publish.” (The Scholarly Kitchen)

• Most transformative agreements consists both of paying for the reading-part and the publishing-part.

• Different publishers have different solutions to create these agreements.
Different types of transformative agreements

- Hybrid Open Access
- Hybrid and Fully Open Access

“Hybrid open access is only a temporary solution and part of the transition towards full open access publishing.” (Academy of Finland)
Costs!

The cost includes

- Subscription fees
- Publishing fees

National level

- Model to allocate the costs
- Goal: APC:s (Article Processing Charges) fully covered by the agreement
Karolinska institutet price increase as % from ordinary to transformative agreements

- Cambridge
- Elsevier
- Oxford
- SAGE
- Springer Compact
- Taylor & Francis
- Wiley

% increase in normal cases
% to a transformative agreement
Södertörn University price increase as % from ordinary to transformative agreements

- **Cambridge**: High increase
- **Elsevier**: Moderate increase
- **Oxford**: Very high increase
- **SAGE**: Low increase
- **Springer Compact**: Moderate increase
- **Taylor & Francis**: Moderate increase
- **Wiley**: Low increase

Legend:
- Blue bar: % increase in normal cases
- Orange bar: % to a transformative agreement
New role 1: “Approval Managers”

• Verify the author
• Type of publication

Dear Approval Manager,

The below article is currently awaiting verification from ‘Karolinska Institute’
Approval managers- how?

Each publisher has their own workflow:
• Dashboards
• Excel files
• Emails from the Bibsam Consortium
• Codes via email
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<th>Surrogacy Relationships: A Critical Interpretative Review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
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<td>[Name]</td>
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**Actions:**
- Approve
- Decline
## Approved Requests (38)

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<th>Request Status</th>
<th>Author Name</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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Single-cell analysis of human ovarian cortex identifies distinct cell populations but no oogoniai stem cells

Genetic diversity of the intimin gene (eae) in non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli strains in China

Increases in life expectancy are not limited to the healthy: A nationwide register-based study on the life expectancy development in subpopulations with a history of common diseases
New role 2: part of the publishing process

- Early in the publication process
- When submitting, when accepted
- Support the researcher without "interfering."
New role 3: communicators about TA

- Create and update web pages describing the different agreements.
- Communicating about the transformative agreements in all sorts of forums.
- TA-support – questions about the agreements (and there are many...)
- Webinars: "publish open access without fees"
Some of the questions we get

• Double checking: “...if I use my KI email address when submitting (and am the corresponding author) me and my co-authors won’t have to pay the APC? It almost sounds too good to be true :-) So I just want to double check.”

• What if we are two corresponding authors? One from KI and one from another university?

• Why hasn’t my article been approved?
Some of the questions we get

• Can students take part in these agreements?

• Can I be guaranteed that the APC will be paid?

• Is this journal part of an open access deal or not?
The OA search box at KI

Search for journals where you can publish open access without fees

In this search box you can search for a specific journal title to see if it is included in an open access agreement with prepaid publishing fees. If a journal is included you will find a link to more information about the agreement and author instructions.
The OA search box at SH
Headache 1 - The money!

• Agreements may not cover all publications.

• Upset researchers

• Happy researchers
Headache 2 - Communication

• Differences in the agreements.

• No guarantees.

• Keep the information updated.
Headache 3 - Differences in the agreements

• Submittance date or acceptance date?

• Publication types?

• Verify or not?

• Routines for invoicing?

• Different deadlines
Headache 4 - Lack of national guidelines

- Example 1: A researcher has written an article when working at my university. When the article has been accepted the researcher has stopped working at the university. Should I verify or not?
- Example 2: The researcher is not the corresponding author but wants to be, to take advantage of the university’s agreement.
Researchers’ view

What do researchers think about these agreements?
Survey at Karolinska about OA agreements

Short survey sent to 61 researchers in September 2019, 42 answered (69%).

“Hello,

You have received this email because you have had one or more article processing fees paid by the KI University Library so that you've been able to publish your article open access with the publisher X.

The library would really appreciate if you could answer this short survey to give us a better understanding of your experience. This will help us in future work with potential new agreements.

Participating is of course optional and all answers will be treated as strictly confidential.”
Would you have chosen to publish open access even if the publishing fee had not been paid by the library?

Yes: 20 (48%)

“In general NO but YES if the grant holder requests that. Ideally the answer would be YES but the prices are too high and these costs should not be on the researchers economy. I share this frustration with many colleagues that are obliged to publish in not-Open Access because of lack of funding”

No: 5 (12%)

“Open access is my preference, but it would depend on the fee amount.”

Maybe: 17 (40%)

“I will choose open access if the research funders request it.”

“2000 USD...no way!”
To what degree has the chance of having the publishing fee paid affected your choice of journal?

"The quality of the journal has a higher priority”

“Importantly, this has also affected the choice of the journal many times and it should not be like that.”

“Due to publication costs, I may have selected a cheaper and less influential journal.”
What do you think about the process of having the publishing fee paid?

“To be honest, it was the smoothest procedure I have experienced since in principle I did nothing more than just specifying on the online manuscript submission system that the work belongs to KI.”

“It was smooth, rapid and excellent!”

“Simplified my publishing process a lot.”
Do you think that the library should continue making these kinds of agreements?

93% said Yes (39 of 42)

3 respondents said “Don’t know / Can’t answer the question”

• “Absolutely, especially since KIB can make a much better deal with the publisher than individual researchers”
• “Maximizes the impact of research from KI.”
• “It makes things more fair between those with a lot of funding and those with a little.”
• “This is a great support to many researchers at KI, and it should definitely be expanded. Many thanks for this support!”
Increased interest from researchers.

Two teams working with OA:
• Information Resources Team
• Publishing and Open Science Team

Arrange seminars.
Seminars at Södertörn University

How can we get the researchers to the seminar?

Offer them lunch wraps!

Online quiz about APC:s.

Lecture about APC:s and transformative agreements.
Some questions from the researchers

• How do I know which agreements we have access to?
• Can I publish open access without any charges?
• Does the library have any funding for open access publishing?
• What do the different Creative Commons licenses mean?
• If you are not a permanent employee, is the cost covered anyway?
• Can you help me postpone the publishing process so the article will be covered by the agreement?
Conclusions

• For librarians: more work, new tasks, many new things to learn, no vacation ;-)
• For researchers: less administration, some uncertainty, but positive
• For the universities: redirect the money to the library
• For the library: budget issues
• For all: positive with more OA
Questions?

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Thank you!