

Towards immediate Open Access? Finnish scholarly journals, funding and infrastructure

NOAF meeting, Stockholm, June 16, 2017

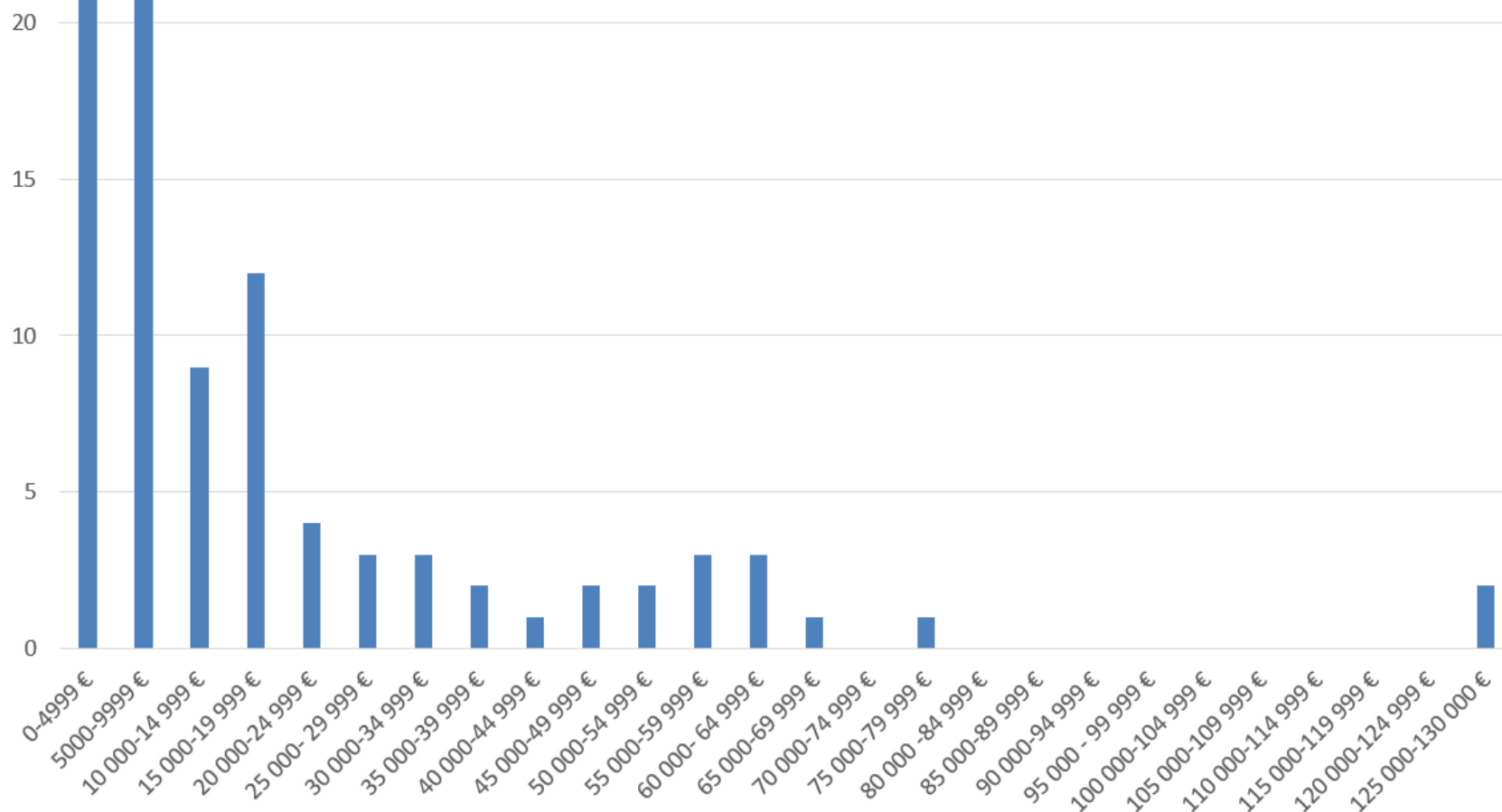
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Background: Finnish scholarly journals

- About 30% of the Finnish scholarly journals are already open access journals – either immediately or after a delay (delayed OA)
 - Many of the journals are still only available in printed form or as part of a subscription-based service
- The Finnish domestic journals are mostly run by researchers, not by big commercial publishers
 - Most of the 100+ journals are published by small scholarly societies
 - Most of the journals operate with very little money; reliance on unpaid work

Differences in revenue

The revenues of 90 Finnish scholarly journals in 2014.
Source: Federation of Finnish Learned Societies



Current sources of revenue

- The main sources of income are subscriptions, membership fees and state subsidies
 - Individual subscriptions and society membership fees very important for many journals
- State subsidies are distributed by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies
 - About 600.000 euros a year allocated to the journals
 - The journals need to have other income as well – the funding covers only a percentage of total income
- Finnish research libraries have spent relatively little money on the acquisition of domestic journals
 - It is not possible to simply flip the current the licensing costs to cover the OA costs – there is not enough money

Making open access viable for Finnish journals

- The Kotilava project (www.kotilava.fi), 2015-2017, is a part of the Open Science and Research initiative funded (250.000 €) by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Based on the recommendations of a report on the potential funding models for the Finnish scholarly journals ([Ilva & Lilja 2014](#))
- The project has had two main goals:
 - To provide an improved Open Journal Systems -based technical platform for the Finnish journals (Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, Antti-Jussi Nygård, started in September 2015)
 - To create a sustainable funding model for the journals to support their transition to Open Access (National Library of Finland, Riitta Koikkalainen, started in March 2016)

Journal.fi

- The newly branded Journal.fi platform launched by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies in January 2017
- Upgraded to OJS 3, with major technical upgrades
- Currently contains 40 journals (most of them OA), about 20 other journals waiting for their turn to join



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Journal.fi

Journal.fi is a new journal management and publishing service provided by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies. The site features 40 Finnish scholarly journals, with more to come.

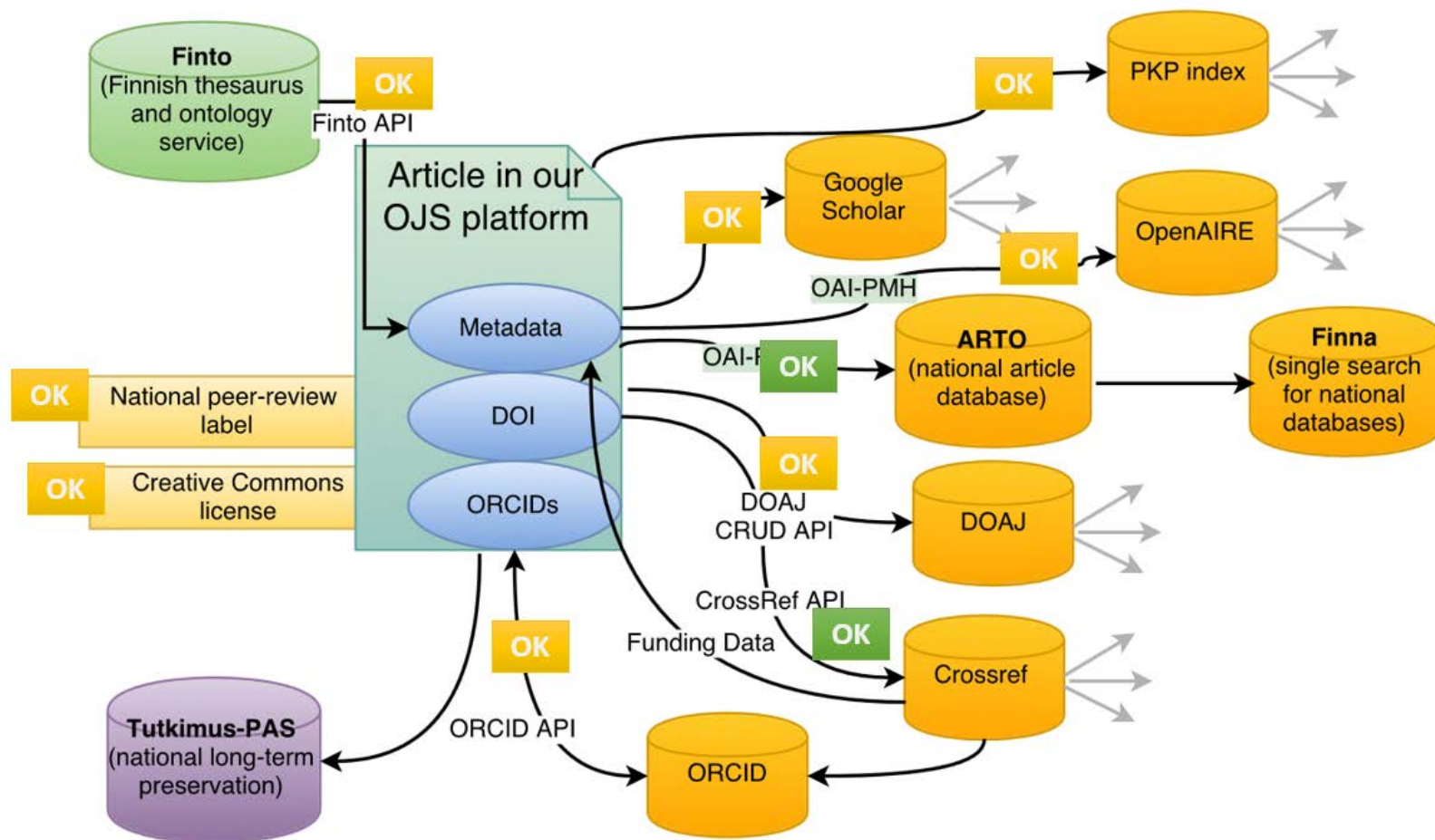
Journal.fi is designed to meet the needs of authors, readers, publishers and funders in the age of Open Access journals. The service is using the Open Journal Systems 3.0 software.

Part of the scholarly infrastructure

- The journals at Journal.fi will be integrated with national and international infrastructures
 - The article level metadata can be harvested to other systems via APIs
 - Adoption of the permanent identifiers in Finnish journals: DOIs for the articles, ORCIDs for the authors
- The use of XML format in journals
 - Additional funding received from the European OpenAIRE project for piloting the use of a XML-based publication format
- Long-term preservation will be ensured in co-operation with other national projects



Journal.fi infrastructure plan, 5/2017



Graph: Antti-Jussi Nygård, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies

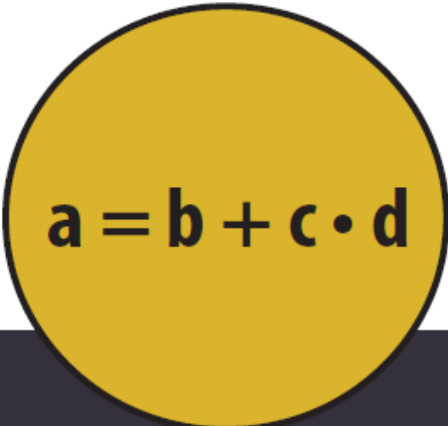
A national consortium to fund the journals?

- The other aim of the Kotilava project is to create a national consortium which would provide funding for the journals
 - The journals generally agree that a consortium-based funding model would be the preferred solution for them
 - Adoption of article processing charges (APCs) as such is not seen as desirable
 - The organizations that benefit from the work the journals are doing are seen as potential funders: e.g. universities, universities of applied sciences, research institutes, research funders
- The continuation of state funding is also seen as essential
 - The income received from the consortium and the state funding would compliment each other

An article-based funding model

- The consortium funding would be collected from the research organizations and distributed to the journals
- The sums paid in the model would be based on the number of peer-reviewed articles published by the researchers affiliated with each organization
- Preliminary article price: 800 euros

**The formula
to calculate
the share of
the member
organisation**


$$a = b + c \cdot d$$

a = sum paid by a member organisation of the consortium

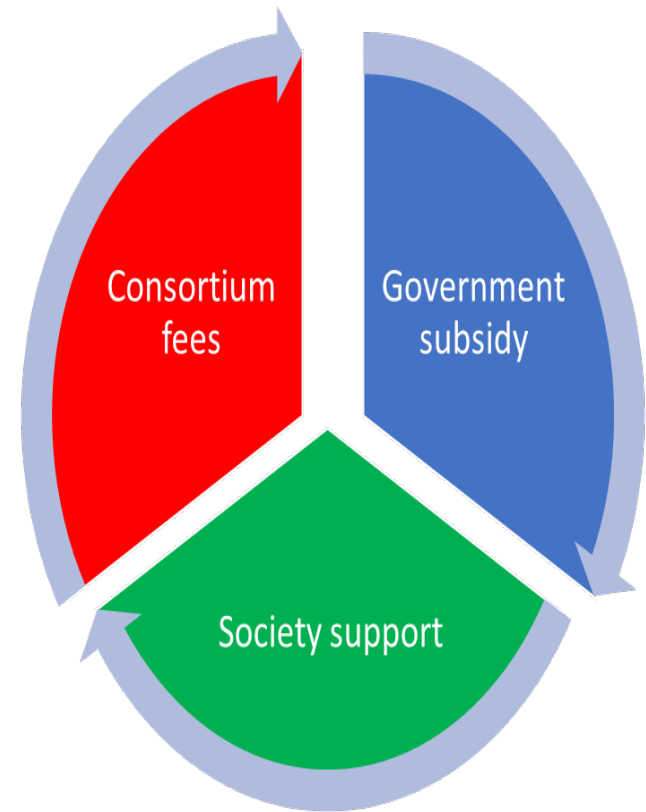
b = fixed charge for the consortium administration

c = mean value of the number of peer-reviewed articles published in the Kotilava journals by the researchers of the organisation, an interval of three years

d = price of an article

The sources of revenue in the new model

- The income from the new model should cover significant part of the costs, but not all of them, at least not for all journals
 - The societies could continue subsidising the costs from e.g. membership fees and the rest would come from the state funding
 - Moving to open access might also enable the journals to cut some of their present costs



The aims of the new funding model?

- The research organizations may end up paying more than they do now, but they should feel that they get compensated for that
 - In return for the funding the journals will pledge to follow certain standards in e.g. openness, licensing, peer review, infrastructure
 - The researchers will have competitive high-quality publication channels, which provide visibility and metrics for their work
- The funding model will be a compromise between different interests
 - In the long run there may be winners and losers among the journals
 - This should be OK, as long as the model is fair and transparent

Differences in OA requirements

■ Journal.fi

- Immediate or delayed OA (max 12 months embargo) required
- Metadata CC0 required
- DOIs and ORCIDs recommended
- CC licenses recommended
- Registration to DOAJ recommended
- SHERPA/RoMEO policy (yellow, blue, green) recommended

■ Funding model

- Immediate OA required
- Metadata CC0 required
- DOIs and ORCIDs required
- CC licenses or other OA licenses required
- Registration to DOAJ required
- SHERPA/RoMEO policy required

Where are we now?

- The negotiations between stakeholders still underway
- The proposed model got a positive response from the Finnish university rectors in May 2017
 - "Important initiative"
 - "The costs seem reasonable"
- The current plan is to launch the model in 2018 with about 30 journals, with more journals joining during the following years
 - There is still a lot of work to do to make this possible

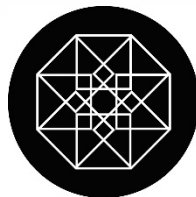
Some further issues under discussion

- Non-peer-reviewed content: should it be taken into account in some way in the funding model?
- International journals published in Finland: will some of them need additional funding (possibly APCs for foreign authors)?
- Funding and editorial independence: an affiliation should have no effect on the publishing decisions
- Sustainability: the publishers should be able to trust that both the consortium and the platform will be around for the long term

www.kotilava.fi



OPEN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH



FEDERATION OF FINNISH LEARNED SOCIETIES



THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF FINLAND