Collaborative Negotiation by Researchers and Librarians in Japan

https://oase.jp/

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What is **OASE+**? (Open Access for Scholarly Empowerment +)

a collaborative framework uniting **OASE**, a researcher-led team, with **JUSTICE**, a group steered by librarians, enabling **"negotiations informed by diverse perspectives and fostering stronger community engagement".**

OASE

Open **A**ccess for **S**cholarly **E**mpowerment

- A team established in 2024.
- Focus on negotiation regarding Transformative Agreements (TAs) with big academic publishers.
- "Researcher-Led" is the distinctive feature. Negotiate while engaging with the institution's executive leaderships.

Catalytic, Focused, Researcher-led

Starting in 2025

JUSTICE

https://contents.nii.ac.jp/justice

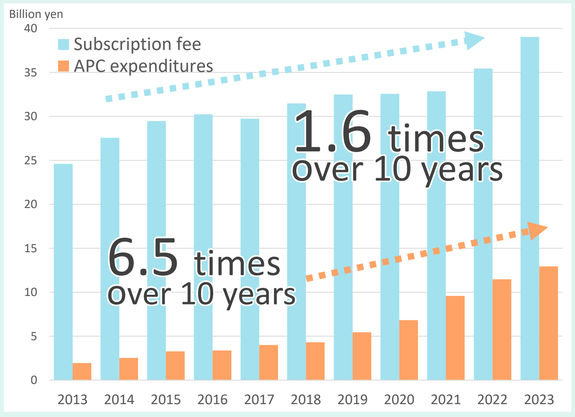
Japan Alliance of **U**niver**si**ty **L**ibrary **C**onsortia for **E**-Resources

- Consortia established in 2011.
- Conducts license negotiations for more than 50 publishers for subscriptions, TAs, databases or e-books.
- University Library-led. Negotiations are conducted by library staff.

Established, Diverse, Library-led

Background

- Rising subscription fees and APC expenditures
- Japan's declining research capabilities



Trends in subscription fees and APC expenditures in Japan[1),2)]

	2002-2004PY	2012-2014PY	2022-2024PY
The number of papers	2nd	3rd	5th
Top 10% papers	4th	7th	13th
Top 1% papers	4th	8th	12th

Japan's ranking in international comparisons of research activity[3)]

On February 16, 2024, Japanese National Policy **"National Policy on Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded Scholarly Publications and Scientific Data"[4)]**

Philosophies

1. Make publicly funded research outputs accessible to the public
2. Optimize the financial burden of the total amount of subscription fees and APCs throughout Japan
3. Enhance the ability to disseminate Japan's research outputs to the world.

Negotiation Team

3 from OASE, 4 from JUSTICE.
Led by Prof. Yasuteru Shigeta.

Collaboration Between Researchers and Library Staff

Role of Researchers

- Engaging with the institution's executive leaderships (who are researchers themselves).
- Speaking on behalf of researchers who publish articles.

Role of Librarians

- Bringing practical expertise gained through years of negotiations.
- Speaking on behalf of contract and operations managers.

Expressions of Interests (EOIs)

188 EOIs / 873 universities etc.

Diverse institutions and Strong Commitment

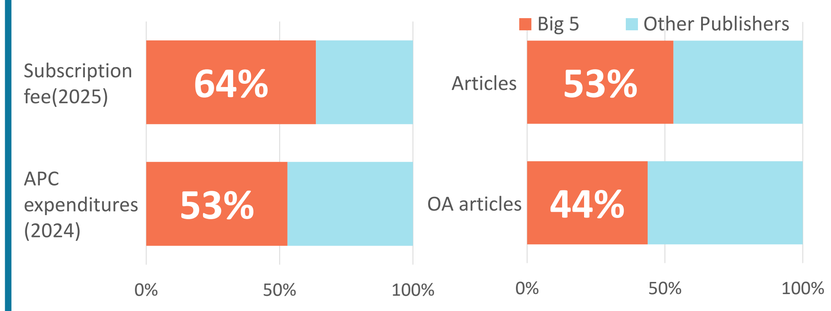
- Participating institutions including national, public, and private universities, and national research institutions, account for 76% of Japan's articles.
- EOIs in TAs under the names of institutional executive leadership indicate strong commitment.
- Negotiations are informed by input collected from surveys administered to institutions.

Negotiation Targets

TAs with the Big 5 publishers
Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley, ACS, Taylor & Francis

Negotiations Targeting the Big 5

The subscription costs of these 5 publishers rank among the top 5 in Japan.



Ratio of subscription fees to APC expenditures in Japan[2),5)]

Ratio of articles published in Japan(2024)[2)]

Results

- We were able to conduct negotiations from diverse perspectives, involving researchers and library staff from various fields of expertise and career stages.
- The institutions' executives gained a deeper understanding of journal issues.

We were able to incorporate feedback from the institutions and improve the conditions.

Institutions

- Prices are rising rapidly, making it difficult to sign a three-year contract.
- As with the previous contract, including full OA journals.

Publishers

- Adjust the balance of price increases over the three-year period to keep the total amount down.
- Include full OA journals.

Researchers

- It is the research community that is addressing the issue of the increasing number of articles—which publishers cite as the reason for price hikes.
- The OA publishing allocation established under the TAs should be made available for use freely and flexibly.

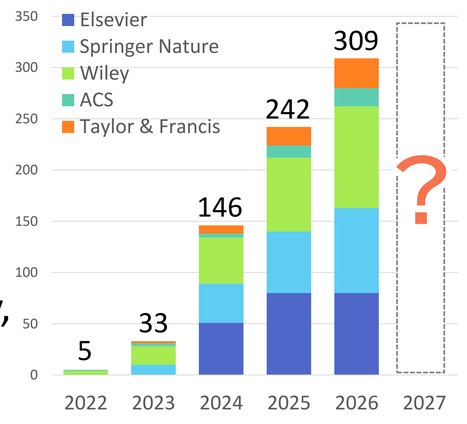
Librarians

- What are the upgrade requirements for the package that serve as the basis for the TAs?
- The abolition of the APC discount is a major loss for us.

Executive leaderships

- Long-term consideration is needed to strengthen our negotiating power.
- The research evaluation system needs to be revised.

In 2025, OASE reached agreements with Springer Nature and Taylor & Francis on 2026-2028 proposals, and with Wiley on 2026 proposal. In 2026, OASE+ reached agreements with Elsevier, Wiley, and ACS on 2027-2029 proposals.
By negotiations targeting the Big 5, Japan's OA will progress, which should lead to the rationalization of Japan's research funding and, consequently, to improved research outcomes.



Number of TAs for the Big 5 in Japan[6)]

Future Challenges

- Building a sustainable framework.
- Assuming an "All-in" approach, strengthen our negotiating power and explore efficient models, such as sharing OA publishing allocation.
- Negotiations to address challenging circumstances, such as yen depreciation.
- Efficient collection and accumulation of data necessary for negotiations.

Reference

1) Subscription fee based on the "Survey of Academic Information Infrastructure" by the MEXT
2) APC expenditure based on the "Survey of Open Access Publication and Article Processing Charges (APCs) in Japan" by the JUSTICE
3) Based on "Japanese Science and Technology Indicators 2026" by the NISTEP
4) Decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council. https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216_en.pdf
5) Subscription fee based on the "Survey of the e-resources contract status" by the JUSTICE
6) Based on Publishers' websites, compiled with assistance from Sawako Kojin (OASE+).