

FJN AGM 2022

Mark C. Wilson (President, Free Journal Network)
5 May 2022



AGENDA

(estimated times in EDT)

- 11:30 AM Welcome and introductions (Wendy)
- 11:35 AM President remarks (Mark)
- 11:40AM Financial report (Elyse)
- 11:45 AM Election of officers (Wendy)
- 12:00 PM Fundraising report (Mark/Barbara)
- 12:10 PM Diamond OA ecosystem news (Wendy/Mark)
- 12:20 PM Journal status report and 2022 journal survey (Mark/Patrick)
- 12:30 PM Plan S compliance planning (Mark)
- 12:40 PM Any other business
- 1:00 PM Closing comments



Welcome to FJN

- Started in 2018, legally incorporated in 2020
- Board of Directors has 9 elected members (elections this year)
- Advisory Committee appointed by Board
- **Mission:** support the ecosystem of scholar-controlled, open access journals with no author charges
- Everyone here is a volunteer, with a day job; please offer help and be nice!

FJN Board of Directors

- **Jean-Sébastien Caux** (infrastructure). Prof. Univ. Amsterdam. Physics.
- **Mark Costello** (At large member) Prof. Nord Univ. Marine Biology.
- **Elyse Gustafson** (Treasurer). Exec. Director Inst. Math. Stats. OA Publishing.
- **Wendy Patterson** (Secretary). Director Beilstein-Institut. OA Publishing.
- **Barbara Sarnecka** (Journal rep.). Prof. UC Irvine. Psychology.
- **Virginia Steel** (Library rep.). Head Librarian UCLA.
- **Patrick Trettenbrein** (Journal rep.). PhD Student Max Planck Inst. Cognition.
- **Mark C. Wilson** (President). Visiting Prof. UMass Amherst. Mathematics/CS.
- **David Wood** (Journal rep.). Prof. Monash Univ. Mathematics.

The Board meets online twice per year and works by email throughout the year.

Personnel Changes

- Recent advisory board addition: Alex Holcombe (U. Sydney, Psychology; PsyOA).
- Governing board elections will be held in this meeting.
- Board members rotating out will move to the advisory board.
- We want more people to volunteer for the governing board.
- Many thanks to Mark Costello, Barbara Sarnecka, David Wood for their board service since 2020.

Main goals for 2022

1. Solidify our position on quality.
2. Help journals satisfy Plan S requirements.
3. Be more assertive in fundraising.
4. Increase contact with diamond OA policymakers.
5. Increase profile generally.
6. Speak out much more about diamond OA.

It is really hard to do the later ones convincingly without the first two. We need your help.

Fundraising report

- We continue to email individual university libraries, asking for 3-year commitments to funding at \$0-10K per year, mostly.
- Recent support received from UCLA, Iowa State, Purdue, U. Pittsburgh. UMass Amherst likely soon. Our goal: \$200K/year.
- We are discussing with LYRISIS (huge North American library consortium) to apply systematically for funding from all their members, via their OACIP program.
- Thanks to board member Barbara Sarnecka for major help.
- Send your suggestions on whom to contact (research funders, charities).

Journal changes

- We currently have 73 accepted journals with 12 applications under review. Welcome to recently accepted journals: Energeia; Volcanica; Meta-Psychology; Social Psychological Bulletin; Journal of Cultural Analytics; Combinatorial Theory; Ecology, Economy and Society; Open Journal of Mathematical Optimization.
- Two journals are no longer accepted, since they felt the need to charge APCs, and two have not responded to the annual survey so are removed for now.
- Our goal is to have 150 accepted journals by Dec 2023, with no reduction in quality.
- You can all help by urging well qualified journals to apply.

2022 Journal survey

Very good:

- 87% of our journals use DOIs for all papers
- 87% are listed in DOAJ
- 84% say they have a long term archival solution

However:

- 73% DO NOT publish any basic statistics on their website
- 47% DO NOT have a formal legal organization owning the journal
- Most need help with technical Plan S requirements

The board will prioritize help for journals to improve this year.

PKP webinar and resources

- We see it as extremely important that all our journals comply with Plan S requirements by the end of 2022.
- I have negotiated with PKP (makers of OJS) so they produce training materials for OJS users, to simplify the entire process.
- FJN will pay for and donate these to the public domain, so all diamond journals can use them.
- In addition to helping the ecosystem, it will make it easier for journals to comply with our requirements before applying.
- Look out for this webinar around July. Your journal will need to run OJS version 3 and ideally 3.3, to make full use of it.

Publicity and connections to others

- Our Twitter account @freejournalnet (run by Mark and Wendy) has 914 followers.
- We try to follow all our journals that have accounts.
- We have signed a letter of support for a large European grant application to improve infrastructure for Diamond OA journals.
- Board members have participated in OA conferences in Europe including activities of Science Europe and cOAlition S.
- We would like to present formally on behalf of FJN at such venues, but are limited by board member time. If you would like to help, let us know!

FJN grants

- The Board has again decided to offer at least \$5000 from our current funds as one-off grants to currently accepted journals (only).
- Please fill in the form <https://freejournals.org/applying-for-funding-from-fjn/> , explaining what you want the money for, and the minimum you could accept. **Deadline 15 June 2022.**
- To make the money go further, consider applying for matching funds from your institution.
- We expect applications for specific projects: reimbursement, historical DOIs, improvements to journal website or editorial software, clerical help, etc.
- We will not fund any ongoing costs from this scheme.

Further topics

- The question of voluntary author payments is a tricky one, which I want to discuss in detail later.
- We have not changed our acceptance criteria for a couple of years, and I think we should tighten them slightly.
- Is it worth official FJN letters to institutions of FJN journal editors asking them to help (financially, recognizing service of editors to community, clerical help, ...)?