

FJN AGM 2021 slides

Mark C. Wilson (President, Free Journal Network)
19 April 2021



AGENDA

(times in EDT)

- 8 AM Welcome and introductions
 - Introduction of board members
 - Brief report on legal reorganization of 2020
- 8:20 AM Report on fundraising
- 8:30 AM Financial report
- 8:40 AM Report on recent developments in diamond OA and publishing
- 9 AM Raising minimum standards for our journals
- 9:20 AM Announcement of FJN grants
- 9:30 AM How you can contribute
- 9:45 AM Any other business
- 10 AM Closing comments



Welcome to FJN

- Started in 2018, legally incorporated in 2020
- Board of Directors has 9 elected members (no 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, so 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.

Advisory Committee

- [Saray Córdoba](#) (University of Costa Rica; Latindex)
- [Katharine Dunn](#) (Massachusetts Institute of Technology Library)
- [Martin Eve](#) (University of London (Birkbeck), English and Humanities)
- [Timothy Gowers](#) (University of Cambridge, Mathematics)
- [Matthieu Latapy](#) (Sorbonne, Computer Science)
- [Peter Suber](#) (Harvard University, Office of Scholarly Communication)
- [Dmitri Zaitsev](#) (Trinity College Dublin, Mathematics)

Legal reorganization of FJN

- FJN is now a nonprofit corporation registered in Massachusetts, USA.
- I am responsible for registration and annual reporting.
- We have applied for nonprofit 501(c)(3) status with the United States IRS.
- We have not yet filed a tax return but intend to do that soon.
- Thanks to FJN member Lajos Balogh for help.

Minor change needed to legal documents

In order to be approved for tax-exempt status, we need to add to the Articles of Organization some information that is already in our bylaws.

Motion: Article IV shall be changed to include content of Bylaw Articles 2.1 and 8.3:

This corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Such distribution shall be made in accordance with all applicable provisions of the laws of this state.

Fundraising report

- I have emailed about 20 university libraries in 2020.
- We have positive responses from 3 so far, and 2 more are considering.
- COVID-19 has put pressure on library budgets.
- We will apply more widely in 2021. Please suggest people and organizations to contact.
- Thanks to board members Virginia Steel and Barbara Sarnecka for major help.

Background on Diamond OA

Diamond OA is the latest name for open access journals with no fees for authors. All FJN journals are diamond by definition.

- Diamond OA journals publish about 10% of all articles, but APC-OA journals have overtaken them recently.
- There are an estimated 17000-29000 diamond OA journals.
- They are relatively much more common in South America and Eastern Europe than Western Europe and North America.
- They tend to be much smaller than APC-OA journals, owned by universities or not formally owned, and operate on very small budgets.
- DOAJ has over 16000 journals, 70% of them diamond.

The common thread is control by academics and very little money involved.

cOAlition S report on OA Diamond journals

Summary of technical findings

- About 60% of diamond OA articles have a DOI as opposed to about 95% of articles in APC-based journals.
- About 50% of diamond OA articles have a machine-readable licence (85% for APC-OA).
- About 30% of diamond OA journals have an archival preservation policy.
- About 30% of diamond OA journals use ORCID.
- About 25% of diamond OA journals publish machine-readable full-text (less than half the APC-OA rate)
- About 25% of diamond OA journals publish open citation information.
- Only 37% of diamond OA journals comply with more than half of the technical requirements of Plan S, 4% with all of them.

Diamond OA report: recommendations

The report makes 20 recommendations to journals and funders. Some are:

- Journals that comply with their standards should register in **DOAJ**
- Journals should specify their ownership status, to avoid unnecessary legal risks and for better sustainability.
- Funders should facilitate the acquisition of DOIs for smaller journals through Crossref Sponsoring Organisations

There is nothing clear said about how operating expenses of Diamond OA journals should be supported by funders and libraries!

See blog post by FJN board member J-S Caux: <https://www.coalition-s.org/blog/opportunities-in-waiting/>

FJN grants

- The Board has decided to offer at least \$5000 from our current funds as one-off grants to currently accepted journals (only).
- Please send application by email to info@freejournals.org, explaining what you want the money for, and the minimum you could accept. **Deadline 15 May 2021.**
- To make the money go further, consider applying for matching funds from your institution.
- We expect applications for specific projects: reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs, historical DOIs, improvements to journal website or editorial software, clerical help with applying to DOAJ, etc.
- We will not fund any ongoing costs from this scheme.