Association for Computer Machinery and Council of Australian University Librarians sign agreement to support transition to open access publishing for Australia and New Zealand researchers

24 October 2023

CAUL is delighted to be entering into a truly transformative new Open Access (OA) agreement with ACM. Commencing in 2024, the agreement enables researchers from affiliated CAUL institutions to publish without incurring individual article processing charges (APCs). This arrangement, facilitated by university libraries, benefits institutions regardless of their publishing volume.

"CAUL is delighted to be entering into an agreement with ACM", said Hero Macdonald, University Librarian, Deakin, and chair of the CAUL Content Procurement Committee. "As ACM is leading the way in becoming a truly transformative publisher, and flipping to OA in 2026, this new chapter in the ongoing partnership between CAUL member institutions and ACM, is vital in ensuring that authors can publish without needing to expend precious research or department funds on Article Processing Charges". ACM is the first CAUL agreement where a publisher is showing a full commitment to transitioning from traditional subscription-based pricing models to a pricing model related purely to publishing volume. Hero went on to say, "Despite the challenges for some of our members where the financial commitment to support publishing is greater than previous subscription amounts, we can see the value in supporting publishers that can clearly demonstrate that they are equitable and transparent in their migration to being a purely open access only publisher. It's reassuring that some of our low publishing members will benefit immediately through pricing lower than what they were paying for subscriptions". The CAUL procurement service now provides over 20 Open Access agreements to its members across a variety of large and small publishers, covering a broad range of science and humanities subjects.

"CAUL has been a true partner to ACM for over 20 years by facilitating access to ACM's Publications for the Australian computer science community via the ACM Digital Library platform," said Scott Delman, ACM's Director of Publications. "As ACM continues its journey to becoming a fully Open Access Publisher by the end of 2025, ACM couldn't be more pleased to expand our current Digital Library 'read' agreement with CAUL into a combined 'read + publish' ACM Open Agreement that will enable Australian computer scientists to publish their most important work in ACM's high-quality journals, conferences, and magazines on an Open Access basis without the need for authors to pay individual Article Processing Charges (APC). It is our hope that all current CAUL member institutions will join this innovative ACM Open Framework Agreement in support of their faculty and students publishing with ACM." Wyatt Reynolds, ACM's Director of Digital Library and Advertising Sales, added "ACM wishes to thank the CAUL member institutions for their support of ACM's transition to Open Access through their participation in this agreement, and we are immensely grateful for the efforts of CAUL on behalf of their members. Transformative agreements like this one represent a significant step forward for Open Access and Open Science, and we look forward to continued collaboration."

About the Council of Australian University Librarians:

The Council of Australian University Librarians Inc. (CAUL) is the peak leadership organisation for university libraries in Australia and New Zealand. CAUL members are the University Librarians or equivalent of the 39 institutions that have representation on Universities Australia (UA) and the University Librarians or equivalent of the 8 institutions that have representation on Universities New Zealand (UNZ) and which form the Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL), a committee of UNZ. CAUL makes a significant contribution to higher education strategy, policy and outcomes through a commitment to a shared purpose: To transform how people experience knowledge – how it can be discovered, used and shared. CAUL's vision is that society is transformed through the power of research, teaching and learning. University libraries are essential knowledge and information infrastructures that enable student achievement and research excellence.

About the Association for Computing Machinery:

[ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery](), is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting educators, researchers, and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

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