

Summary of the evaluation of Springer Compact – report 1

Springer Compact is an offset agreement between Springer and 40 Swedish institutions negotiated through the Bibsam consortium, supported by the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish National Library. The purpose of the agreement is to get more Swedish articles published as open access and to control expenditure by combining subscription and publishing fees.¹ The Springer Compact agreement will be evaluated biannually throughout the duration of the agreement (mid-2016 to 2018). This document is a summary of the first report, covering July - December 2016.

Assignment

Four aspects of the assignment

An evaluation committee has been assigned the task of evaluating the effects of Bibsam consortium offset agreements regarding their effects on *economy*, *administration*, *attitudes* and *research dissemination*.

The evaluation will:

- prepare us for future negotiations on offsetting with Springer and other publishers,
- investigate if the demands of Swedish institutions and research funding agencies are met,
- survey the current funding streams for open access and the possibility to redirect them, and
- support informed strategic discussions with stakeholders on future offset models and Article Processing Charges (APC) etc.

Organisation

The evaluation committee consist of Helena Francke, University of Borås; Niklas Willén, Uppsala University; Ulf Kronman, National Library of Sweden; Henrik Aldberg, Swedish Research Council; Thomas Neidenmark, Stockholm University (convenor until 2017-02-12) and Lisa Olsson, Stockholm University (convenor from 2017-02-13). The evaluation committee intends to produce five reports (Q1 2017, Q3 2017, Q1 2018, Q3 2018 and a final report Q1 2019). Preliminary conclusions will be reported to the Bibsam consortium in time for the upcoming negotiations with Springer in 2018. The evaluation committee will be in close dialogue with the participating institutions in Springer Compact to benefit from their

¹ More on the agreement: <https://www.springer.com/gp/open-access/springer-open-choice/springer-compact/agreements-swedish-authors> (2017-01-10)

insights and expertise. Additionally, a scheme for the relationships between the evaluation committee and other stakeholders has been developed to chart communication.

Early results

Economy

The main aspect of the evaluation is to investigate the economic effects of the Springer Compact agreement. More work needs yet to be done in order to identify the existing funding streams for open access, i.e. what publishers are paid in APC (from researchers, institutes and funding agencies) for open access today. At a later stage of the evaluation we hope to be able to map funding streams and put them in relation to output, comparing scenarios with and without the Springer Compact agreement.

In 2016, 637 articles have been published as hybrid open access in Springer journals. That is 419 more than the expected 218 without the Springer Compact agreement.

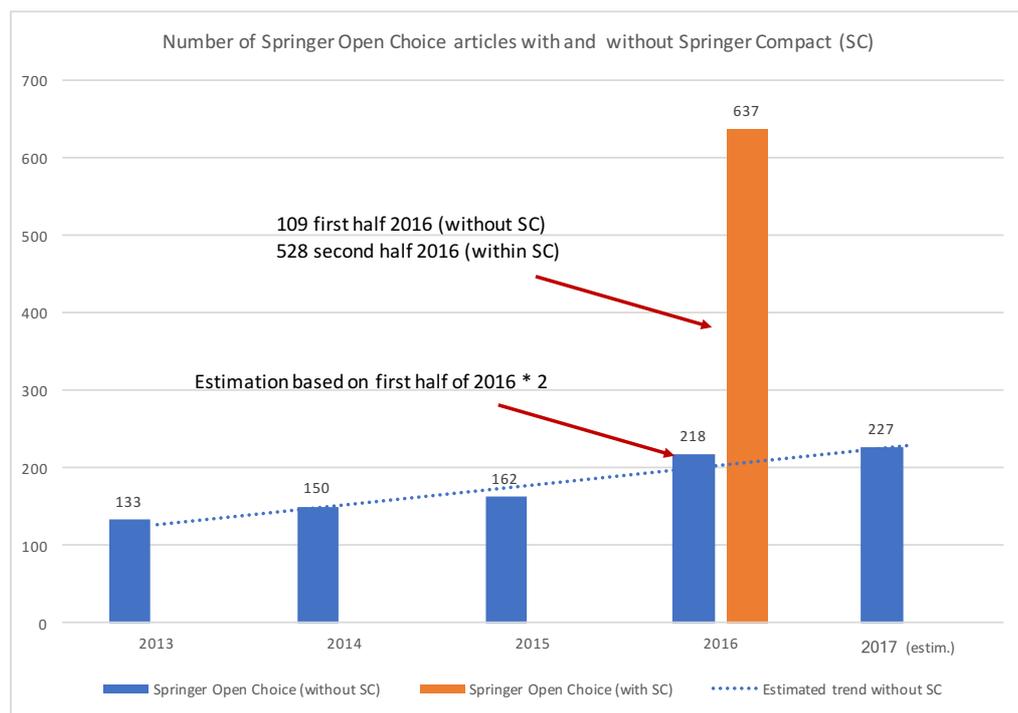


Fig. 1: Number of articles published open access with Springer by Bibsam members without the Springer Compact (SC) agreement (in blue) and within the Springer Compact agreement (in orange). The number of publications without SC has been estimated for the years 2016 and 2017.

The institutions participating in Springer Compact did not have to pay any additional fees during 2016. The raise in costs (€ 247 478) during 2016 were fully covered by the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish National Library.

The cost for each of the Springer Compact publications was found to be € 469, as compared to the standard Springer Open Choice APC of 2200 €.

Administration

The evaluation committee have compared the work processes for handling Springer Compact articles at the University of Borås and Stockholm University and found some differences. While the University of Borås handled two articles in 2016, Stockholm University handled 15. In both institutions, an employee has to confirm that the corresponding author of the article is in fact affiliated with their institution. In Stockholm, difficulties in the process of approving articles arose in cases where the corresponding author had changed affiliation. Such potential additional costs and challenges to efficiency were noted for the future.

Attitudes

An evaluation survey intended to gather input from the corresponding authors of articles covered by the agreement has been created in collaboration with the contact persons at the participating institutions. It will be distributed via Google Forms for each institution to distribute to the corresponding authors of their accepted Springer Compact articles.

Research Dissemination

The evaluation committee was assigned the task to demonstrate the attention spurred by the 528 articles published within the Springer Compact agreement from July to December 2016. We aim to visualise this attention using Altmetric.com and traditional citation measures. The first report naturally focused on the former, since it is still too early to get stable citation counts. 230 of the 528 articles were noticed as having scores in Altmetric.com. Twitter was by far the most common source of attention.

Attachments

Attachment 1: SpringerCompactEvaluation_survey_170215.

References

Altmetric Explorer for Institutions, altmetric.com

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