

Open Access in Astronomy — Why should I care?

The Publisher's view - the case of A&A

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What is Open Access?



Different OA models



Traditional Open Access models

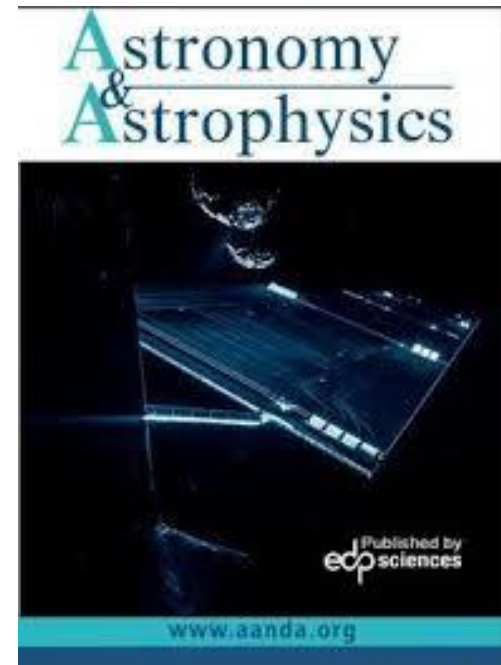
- **Gold Open Access.** Supported by APCs.
- **Diamond Open Access.** Sponsored by societies.
- **Green Open Access.** Subscription+self-archiving.

Alternative OA models

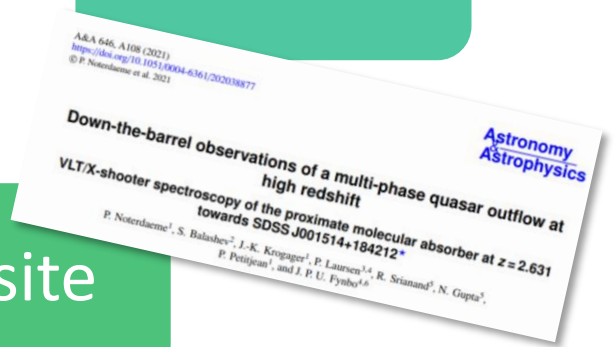
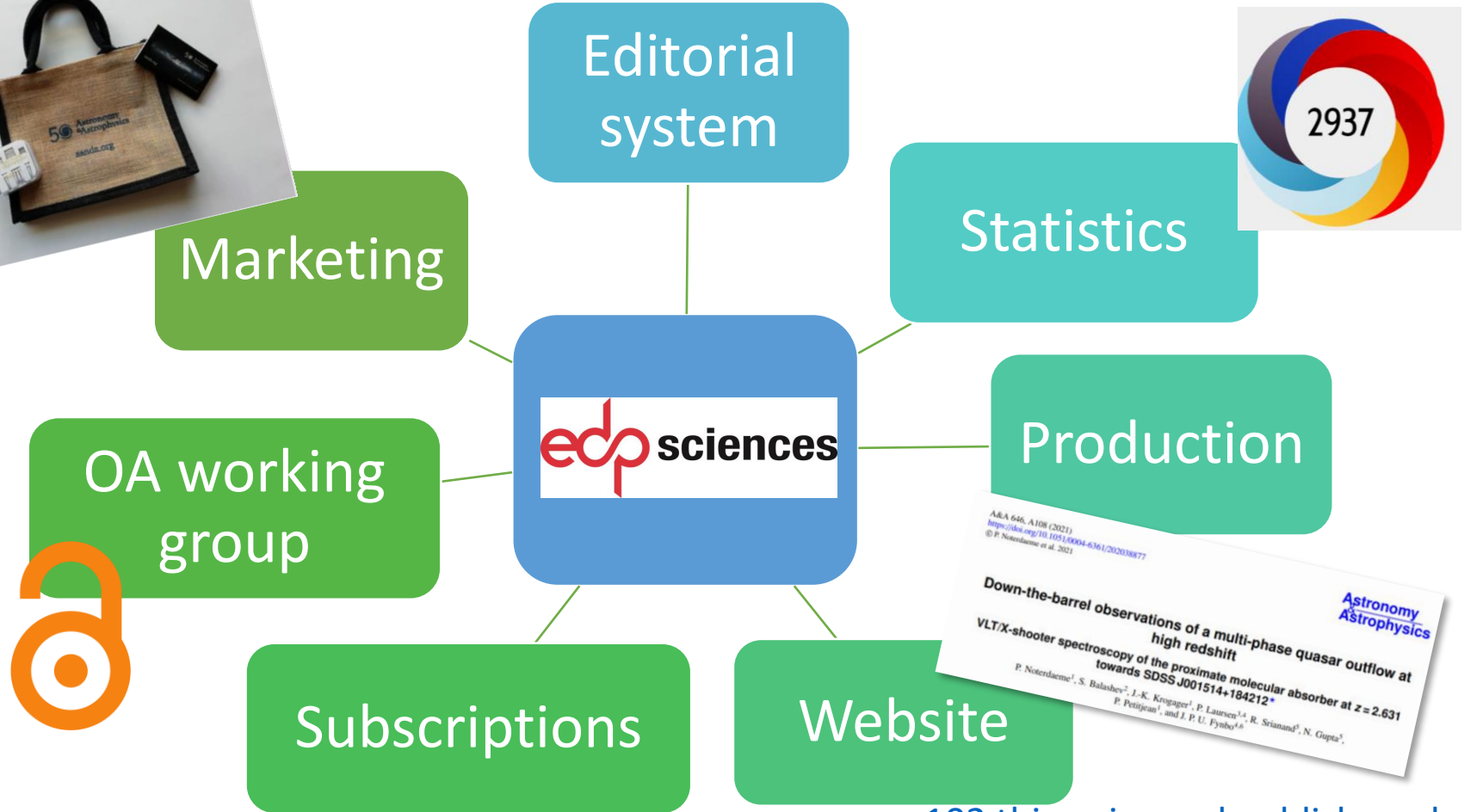
- **Transformative agreements** « Publish & Read »
- **Subscribe to Open (S2O).** *NEW*

The case of A&A

- A&A launched in 1968
- Owned by A&A members including ESO
- Published by EDP Sciences since 2001
- EDP Sciences' "flagship journal"



Publishing A&A



EDP Sciences and OA

Why is EDP Sciences engaged in transitioning to OA?

- Societal and political demands
- Funder/countries mandates for OA publication
- Disseminate our content more widely and increase its impact
- Quicker/increased citations
- EDP Sciences doesn't have the same "sales power" as large publishers
- Decreasing library budgets

=> EDPS is engaged in an **ethical** but **financially sustainable** transition of its entire portfolio of journals to **open access** via **different routes**.

A&A and OA – current situation

- Widespread use of ArXiv in Astronomy community
- Large portion of published A&A content already free to read (Letters, free sections, archives opened after 1 year...)
- "Hybrid" journal but very few APCs (~0.5%)
- “Transformative” open access agreements with French institutions and Max Planck (~20%)

=> Much of A&A content is already in **free access** or **open access**



Why should A&A consider a transition to full OA?

- Generous free access policy is not sustainable for the publisher or for the journal
- A&A wants to maintain a certain level of publishing services (editorial system, website...)
- **Free access** ≠ **open access** (incl. right to re-use, build upon)

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The astro community favours non-APC models• Complexity of the existing funding model (page charges for non-A&A members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first astronomy journal to transition to full OA will have an advantage• Independence from 3rd party platforms (ArXiv...)



Subscribe to Open (S2O)

Subscribe to Open **converts subscription journals to open access** using **existing library subscriptions**.

- As long as **subscriptions** are maintained, the year's content is published in **open access**
- Free to publish, free to read (cf. "Diamond" OA model)
- Libraries' self-interest
- Libraries support the OA movement – institutional partners
- Risk: "free riders" phenomenon, model may not be perennial

Find out more: <https://subscribetooopencommunity.org/>

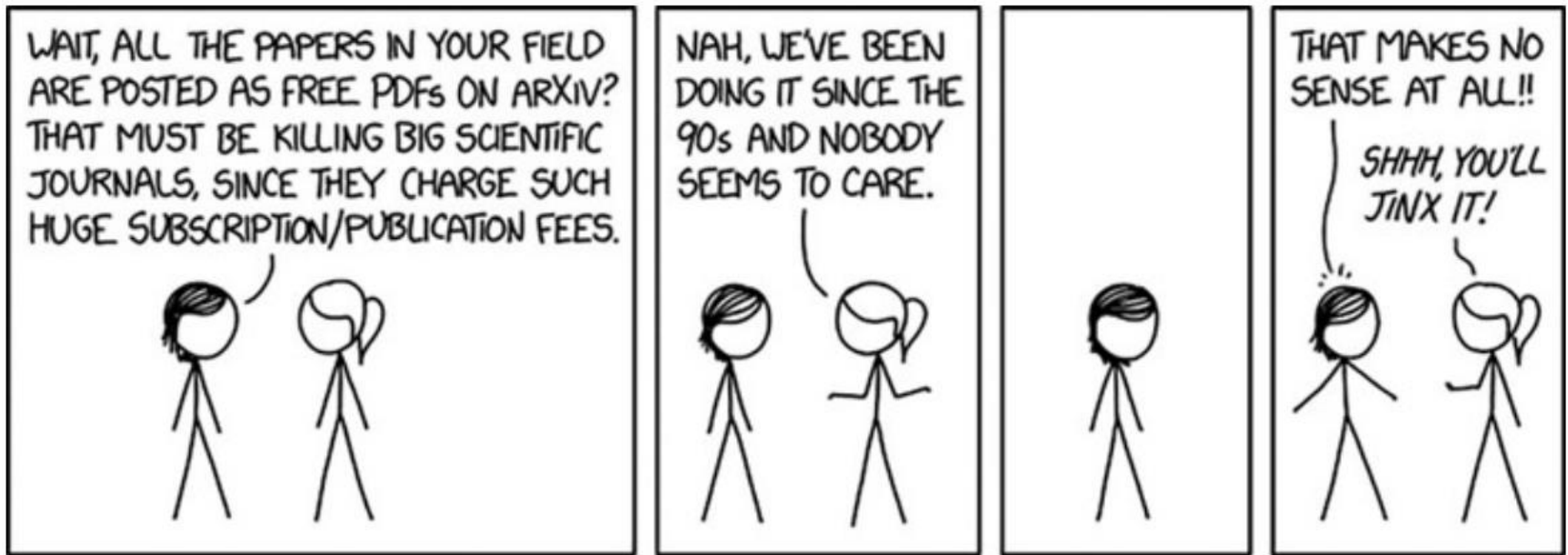
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Publishers and **librarians** working together to
open the access to research



Questions?



Credit: XKCD

An XKCD comic on preprints' perceived threat to traditional publishing.