

ACM Open Discussion at SIGCSE-LACS Affiliated Event 2026

Abstract: In 2026, ACM is adopting the ACM Open publishing scheme that will make all publications open access. This will be subsidized through institution participation in ACM Open, or through authors paying article processing charges upon publication if their institution does not participate. While institutional rates for ACM Open are scaled in an attempt to accommodate a range of institution sizes, this change will still reflect a significant new financial burden for CS faculty at small institutions with limited budgets. This session will allow faculty to discuss strategies for handling this change and whether there might be a role for the Committee to advocate for more flexible and cost effective models for very small institutions.

ACM Documentation

<https://libraries.acm.org/subscriptions-access/acmopen>

Tier pricing:

T10 Schools with 0-3 publications per year pay \$6000 or “DL Read Spend, whichever is lower”

T9 Schools with 4-7 publications per year pay \$9500

No ramp up pricing for T10

APC rates without ACM Open, 2026 only, “subsidized rates”:

No ACM members: \$350 conference, \$1450 journal

At least 1 ACM member: \$250 conference, \$950 journal

[https://authors.acm.org/open-access/acm-open-for-authors-home#:~:text=Table title:%202026%20Article%20Processing%20Charge%20\(APC\)%20Rates:,1%20ACM%20or%20SIG%20Member:%20\\$125%20%7C](https://authors.acm.org/open-access/acm-open-for-authors-home#:~:text=Table%20title:%202026%20Article%20Processing%20Charge%20(APC)%20Rates:,1%20ACM%20or%20SIG%20Member:%20$125%20%7C)

Intended “non-subsidized” rates seem to be:

Journal/Magazine Articles: \$1,800 list price (\$1,300 with an ACM or SIG member as an author).

Conference Proceedings: \$1,000 list price (\$700 with an ACM or SIG member as an author).

DL Read Spend == # articles viewed times \$15 per article

Discussion

Bottom line: either \$6000 per year or \$700-\$1300 per article if you are also an ACM member

Does not apply to CCSC publications

Aside: ACM department pricing only works for departments of 5 or more and is also overly expensive if you are a joint CS/Math department where you have to pay for Math faculty to have membership also

Question: How will publications be counted? What about posters and BoFs? One of us had our library count publications and it included these in determining pricing Tier

Lack of understanding of how much money \$700 is in our department budgets.

Conference registration fees are already going up to an untenable level. Publishing and presenting a SIGCSE paper would cost \$1400 plus travel and hotel

Pay-to-publish will reduce publications from our community

Pay-to-publish is also a historically questionable scheme. Making the case for funds to cover this will often be to an AA dean at our school who is not from CS and will not necessarily know that this is a credible or needed expense. It is already a challenge to make the case that conferences "count" as real publications in our field

Many of our schools weren't paying for institutional ACM access so this doesn't result in any savings

Is there an assumption that we will always have collaborators with access to subsidize our work?

This codifies gatekeeping of who can publish and how easily and frequently they can publish.

Email messaging about this: looking at historical data publications would have 85% coverage for ACM as a whole by ACM Open, and for individual conferences range 67%-94% coverage

ACM is dismissing our contributions with this move - this communicates that our schools and their contributions are not as valuable

This will harm pre-tenure faculty who have the least resources to publish on their own.

Waivers need to be justified by financial hardship, without clarity about what that means or how it might be assessed between institutions

Can we show data that this isn't a charge to schools but is a charge to faculty?

Scale of this expense is big - finding \$1000 is a big challenge at our institutions

Will drive people to publish elsewhere that is more affordable and limit pool of authors willing to publish at ACM and diversity of research you will receive.

Conclusion: this is a significant problem, we should propose a solution as well as documenting the issue

Proposal and Next Steps

Possible proposal to ACM

Is there a way fees can be waived for up to 3 papers per year PUIs? Community colleges? K-12 teachers?

Would school size be a factor (perhaps as an alternative to needing to be a PUI)?

Or some number per time frame, perhaps scaled by number of faculty?

If all of the authors are affiliated with PUIs or just the corresponding author?

Needs to be something you can sign up for proactively based on documentation of school status, rather than applying or people won't take the time to write up their paper if they don't know they'll be able to publish. It's okay to have to document for a 5-6 year window but in advance. Should not be competitive or rationed between schools.

Work Flow for Next Steps

- We draft a proposal with rationale - as part of this survey the committee membership
- We reach out to Community College and K-12 liaisons for this year's technical symposium, perhaps also MSI liaison.
 - CSTA might be an appropriate group to gain a perspective related to K-12 teachers: <https://csteachers.org/>
 - The ACM Committee for Computing Education in Community Colleges (CCECC) would likely have thoughts about the impact of the policies for community colleges: <https://ccecc.acm.org/>
- We ask SIGCSE to endorse our proposal, and likely also SIGITE
- We send it to ACM - this is NOT just about SIGCSE this is about ACM overall

Data Collection from mailing list to support our request

How many of us at least partially subsidize our scholarship ourselves?

How often are you declining to attend conferences or to publish because of budget constraints?

How many of your colleagues are not ACM members or not attending ACM conferences because of the expense?

If willing to share, is there a \$ amount available for faculty in your department this year for scholarly activities? Ranges: 0, 1-500, 500-1000, 1000-1500, 1500-2500, >2500

What additional information can you share about competitive or contingent funds for scholarly activity or processes for accessing additional funding?

Include proposal and ask if they agree

Specific message to SIGCSE

What percent of SIGCSE publications would be covered? Are we the 67%?

What will this do to the diversity of publications at SIGCSE?

Would SIGCSE endorse our proposal to the ACM?

Part of the case to SIGCSE should be that the registration fee at SIGCSE has already become unrealistic for many of us - and faculty at our schools need SIGCSE more because we're from such small departments this is our peer community and opportunity for collaboration

History: registration at SIGCSE was \$325 in 2019