

Dear TMS members,

We are delighted to announce The Micropalaeontological Society has signed a new deal with Copernicus Publications (<http://publications.copernicus.org>) to publish the *Journal of Micropalaeontology* (JoM). After many fantastic years with the Geological Society Publishing House (GSPH), the Society's contract with GSPH was due for renewal at the end of 2017 and through negotiations with a number of potential publishers (including GSPH) we aimed to increase Open Access publishing. After considerable discussions the committee decided that Copernicus would be our first choice as publisher of JoM from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 onwards, for a three-year period in the first instance. This means that JoM is now the first entirely Open Access journal in micropalaeontology. This arrangement does not affect our agreement with GSPH for the delivery of TMS Special Publications. The new platform is now set up within the Copernicus website and can be viewed here:

<http://journal-of-micropalaeontology.net/index.html>

Manuscript submission is now open, and we have developed a promotion for authors without funding that will start in 2018 (see below)!

There is a lot of information to disseminate that relates to: **(1)** how the new journal approach differs to GSPH, and **(2)** how this new model will be of benefit to TMS members and indeed our micropalaeontology community as a whole. Here, we will try and summarise many of the key changes that will result from this new contract with Copernicus. In addition, there is a pdf of 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ's), attached to this email.

#### 1. Online free, paid print subscriptions

All papers, including our entire back catalogue, will be available free online, although there will no longer be free printed versions. This was an issue that received much debate and indeed had divided the TMS community. But when we engaged Society members (poll email sent in March 2017), 84% of the 100 respondents indicated that a paper copy of JoM was not seen as a priority and having access to all papers online was sufficient. We hope that the new journal model, described below, will emphasise how we plan to ensure the long-term future of JoM, with TMS members at the heart of the journal's relaunch.

Of course printed subscriptions to the JoM, and offprints of individual articles, will still be available for purchase, and the cost will be calculated for each year based on the number of pages published in each year. Print subscription costs for 2018 will be high (Table below), as we already have 200 pages of accepted papers that will be published in January, and when added to the normal pages it will ensure 2018 is a bumper year (double the normal annual pages).

Annual price (Member)	Annual price (non-member)	Price per Issue (Member)	Price per Issue (non-member)
€62.30	€122.89	€34.27	€67.59

Table: Print subscription costs for 2018 (2 Issues per year).

An additional benefit to this change in delivery is that Copernicus will make available JoM's entire online back catalogue (c.35 years of JoM!) for free which, through GSPH, was held behind a paywall. The back content will be Open Access from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

## 2. Open Access (OA)

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, all papers published in JoM will be Open Access (OA), meaning that authors will be required to pay a publication fee. This is a fundamental change in JoM's delivery model, as previously through GSPH, there was no manuscript processing fee. However, this meant that articles were held behind a subscription paywall in the Lyell Collection (which many libraries do not subscribe to). With Copernicus, fees will apply to **all accepted manuscripts**. There will be an article processing charge (APC) of €60 + vat per page for TMS members, and €70 + vat per page for non-members. We are charging Society members the 'at cost' rate, whilst the surplus generated by this tiered approach to non-members will be used to contribute towards charges for TMS members that cannot pay (see below). To give Society members an idea of likely costs, the average manuscript size over two years (2016-2017) was 10 pages, which would therefore equate to a publication fee of €714 (£621) for a TMS member or €833 (£725) for a non-member. Such fees compare very favourably to other leading OA journals and options (e.g. *Climate of the Past* is €90 + vat per page; *Marine Micropalaeontology* is £1940 per article).

Our current contract with GSPH will expire at the end of 2017 and, due to the popularity of JoM, we already filled our last two GSPH volumes for 2017! Indeed, there are 15 manuscripts that have already been accepted through the GSPH submission system and were awaiting publication, but which subsequently will not be published through GSPH. These will roll over into the new Copernicus model in 2018. All authors affected by this change have already been contacted, but we would like to reassure the Society that, as part of this managed transition, **all papers previously accepted with GSPH will be supported by the Society through the Copernicus system regardless of whether authors can pay APCs**. This approach will enable the Society to launch the new format in 2018 with some fantastic science. Copernicus publishing will allow authors the peace of mind that, in future, their papers will be published within weeks after acceptance.

We would like to further announce that, as part of our Copernicus launch, we have **developed a promotion** that will **cover the full costs of the first papers accepted in the journal in 2018!** The rules for eligible papers are that they are (i) submitted on or after 1 January 2018, (ii) the first papers accepted (at least six papers) until the funds have been spent, (iii) conditional upon authors demonstrating that they cannot access funds from elsewhere, and (iv) will be limited to the first 10 printed pages of each paper. As this offer can only be activated once we officially move to Copernicus, submissions must wait until January 2018 for consideration of financial support. **For authors who have funds to pay APCs, we will of course accept submissions at any time for peer review consideration, but they will not be published until January 2018.** However, this announcement gives advance notice to those wishing to take part in the promotion, to get your manuscripts ready for submission on January 1<sup>st</sup>!

Finally, to ensure the long-term success of this OA model and to ensure TMS members benefit from this new platform, **the Society will be setting aside funds to cover the publication costs of TMS members that cannot pay in every year.** For members who are potentially unable to access funds to cover the costs of publishing within the journal, the Society are committed to providing financial support to ensure the best science is not held back by such financial barriers.

The decision to move to OA has been made with aspirations for the JoM to become the leading micropalaeontology journal. Presently, all micropalaeontology journals require paid subscriptions for

access to papers. Increasingly, OA is becoming the standard expected delivery model for peer-reviewed papers, with many Research Councils and/or institutions embedding funds to pay for author submissions. The timing of this transition to an OA format will allow us to keep pace with the future of scientific publishing and will provide our Society and the extended micropalaeontology community access to our research, for free. We appreciate there may be questions outstanding regarding these changes, so please feel free to contact our JoM Editor [journal@tmsoc.org](mailto:journal@tmsoc.org).

## ***Journal of Micropalaeontology*, changing publisher to Copernicus**

### **FAQs**

#### **1. Why are we changing publisher now?**

Our 5-year contract with GSPH was due to expire in December 2017. It was therefore necessary to assess the options available to TMS with regards to renewing with GSPH or, alternatively, moving to a different publisher. Following careful evaluation of our options we believe that Copernicus provides the best service for our needs.

#### **2. Which publishers did TMS engage with?**

TMS were in negotiations with GSPH, Copernicus, and Taylor & Francis. Each publisher provided TMS with a detailed outline of their services and associated costs, which was taken into consideration by the JoM Editorial Board and TMS Executive Committee. All three were keen for us to sign with them.

#### **3. Why did we choose Copernicus?**

Our primary driver for the move to Copernicus is to provide our discipline with a highly visible Open Access platform from which to publish and showcase some of our best science. Traditional commercial paywall publishing, with its focus on profitability, essentially works against publicity and wider impact by placing papers behind a 'paywall' that is only accessible to a small community and a shrinking number of library institutions. Numerous micropalaeontology journals exist, but they are only accessible to the paying few. Of course it is possible for individual authors to send their papers around to colleagues, but as we know, if a paper is easily accessible with a simple Google search it is far more likely to be noticed and used by scientists around the world (including from countries that do not have access to subscription journals).

In addition to this, we found Copernicus to have the following advantages:

- High visibility (search engine optimised), highly cited journals
- Excellent easy-to-use professional website
- Intuitive electronic submissions system
- Only publishes Open Access journals
- Low article processing charges compared to competitors
- Fast publication times, less than three weeks from acceptance (currently it can take a year with GSPH)
- Article-level metrics
- No page limits, allowing us to publish as many (or as few) quality papers as needed
- Professional
- Well-known within the geoscience community (publishes EGU journals)
- Not-for-profit organisation
- Provide high quality print for purchase
- Ability to raise TMS funds from non-member elevated page charges and subscription rates

#### 4. What is Open Access?

HEFCE (<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/rsrch/oa/whatis/>) – ‘Open access is about making the products of research freely accessible to all. It allows research to be disseminated quickly and widely, the research process to operate more efficiently, and increased use and understanding of research by business, government, charities and the wider public’. Previously through GSPH, the vast majority of papers remained behind a subscription paywall, hence limiting the ability of fellow scientists to access these articles. By moving to an Open Access model, the up-front payment made to Copernicus makes all journal articles freely and instantly accessible.

#### 5. Who pays Open Access?

The article authors will be responsible for sourcing the fees associated with Open Access delivery. These fees are also referred to as Article Processing Charges (APCs). Academic institutions often have allocated funds available to support the delivery of OA, whilst many RCUK and EU grants will contain funds for APCs. In addition, we will sponsor a number of TMS member APCs each year for those that cannot pay. An additional benefit of Copernicus is that, at the beginning of each year, the publisher provides the Journal Editors with a free quota of pages equal to 10% of the pages published in the previous year, which can also then be used to help those that cannot pay.

#### 6. What do TMS members get for their membership dues, if not a printed copy of JoM?

TMS members are the only people eligible for access to our substantial financial support to pay for Open Access publishing (see point 9 below), which for the first time provides the opportunity to publish our micropalaeontology research Open Access. By making our scientific results available for everyone to read, we envisage that the journal will improve, strengthening our position as a whole outside of our discipline. With the high quality of research reported in the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*, we hope that our members will find the journal to be a compelling place to go to for up-to-date information on cutting-edge research within our discipline.

Here is a list of some of the benefits that TMS members get:

- Eligibility for Open Access financial support for a leading micropalaeontology journal
- Discounted JoM print subscription rates
- Discounted fees for our many conferences throughout the year
- Part of the worlds largest micropalaeontology community
- Biannual newsletter
- Eligibility to receive/nominate for our annual awards (Brady Medal, Alan Higgins Award, Charles Downie Award, Honorary Membership)
- TMS Small Research Grants
- Annual Student Awards
- Grants-in-Aid
- Annual Conference travel bursaries
- Discounts on Special Publications
- Calendar and Image competition

## 7. Who gets the OA money?

Article Processing Charges (APCs) are processed direct through Copernicus. The fees are paid to cover the costs of the review process, typesetting, web publication, and long-term archiving. Included in the APC fee is:

- all online tools for authors and reviewers;
- professional processing of figures;
- typesetting, editing, and formatting in PDF LaTeX;
- English language copy-editing
- immediate open-access publication of each article;
- article alert service;
- inclusion in the Copernicus Online Library;
- indexing in international scientific databases and reference services;
- long-term e-archiving via Portico and CLOCKSS as well as printed archiving via copyright libraries worldwide.

Non-member APCs are higher than member rates. The surplus generated through this tiered system is returned to the TMS and can then be used to support the Society in a number of ways, including providing financial support for those members who cannot access funds to cover APCs.

## 8. I want to receive a paper copy of JoM through Copernicus, how can I get this?

To receive a print version of the JoM you will need to pay through the Copernicus website, either by subscribing to the journal, or by purchasing one-off issues and/or papers. TMS members get preferential rates. This is done through the JoM website by navigating to the Print Subscription page. The cost of the printed version will depend on the size of the volume, and will change from year-to-year depending on the number of papers published. The charges will be cost-neutral for TMS members, and elevated for non-members.

## 9. I am retired, unwaged, or otherwise work in an organisation that does not support Open Access funding. How can I get published in the *Journal of Micropalaeontology*?

Authors lacking support of funds may contact the Copernicus Publications Editorial Support ([editorial@copernicus.org](mailto:editorial@copernicus.org)) to apply for a partial or full waiver from funds provided by TMS. Applications should state why the author (or any of the co-authors) cannot pay the charges and do not have access to other financial support for open-access publications. Applications by students or post-doctoral researchers also require a brief statement from their supervisor or group leader. Applications will be granted if supported by the handling editor and approved by the editor-in-chief. In special cases, such as long review manuscripts, the authors may contact the editor-in-chief prior to manuscript submission.

The Journal Editor will receive funds in each year to help TMS members pay all or some of the APCs in the cases outlined above. Funding will be made available to TMS members only. This funding will be made up of (i) annual TMS block central funding, (ii) Copernicus funding equal to 10% of the pages published in the previous year, and (iii) surplus funds generated from elevated APCs and print subscription charges for non-members.