

Open-Access-Levy Explanation

During the summer and fall of 2018, the Open Access Working Group in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief of *Anthropologica*, undertook a survey of CASCA members on the topic of Open Access publishing. This survey was prompted by a change in the SSHRC guidelines for funding journals. In short, in order to receive SSHRC funding, Canadian journals must be open to all readers for free by the third year of this grant cycle.

This move forced us to re-evaluate *Anthropologica's* finances and, despite applying for and receiving SSHRC funding for *Anthropologica*, the new funding model from SSHRC meant that our journal was going to be underfunded. The majority of the shortfall will result from the elimination of royalty revenue that currently comes from having our articles behind a paywall on Project Muse.

The results of the survey of CASCA members made two things clear: 1) members supported open access publishing and wished to see *Anthropologica* become open; and, 2) members were willing to support open access publishing with a levy on membership dues.

As of the 2020 membership year, we have applied a 33.5% open access levy on some categories of CASCA membership to offset the costs of full open access publishing. Specifically, the new dues structure is as follows:

- Regular employed, less than \$70,000 per annum: \$123 / year (\$354 / 3 years) will now become \$163 / year (\$469 / 3 years)
- Income between \$70,000 and \$100,000 per annum: \$138 / year (\$399 / 3 years) will now become \$183 (\$529 / 3 years)
- Income over \$100,000 per annum: \$158 / year (\$460 / 3 years) will now become \$209 / year (\$610 / 3 years)

Reflecting the ethics of CASCA's survey respondents, no levies have been applied to other membership fee categories (i.e. students, postdocs and low income).

While *Anthropologica* presently needs the levy to transition to open access, the Open Access Working Group is seeking innovative ways to reduce or eliminate annual levy over time. Both *Érudit* and *Libraria* offer hopeful alternative ecologies that could help to reduce this annual levy once *Anthropologica* flips to open access in 2021.

For more information on the Open Access Working Group and the results of the survey of members [please see this article in Culture](#). The OAWG welcomes your suggestions and your help to support CASCA's commitment to open access. Please send correspondence to Tad McIlwraith at tad.mcilwraith@uoguelph.ca.