

Symposium
**“Rethinking Economic Models: Sustainability, Finance, and
Accounting in Times of Transformation”**

Sustainable Open Access Ecosystems:
Balancing Financial Viability and Publishing Integrity

Mariia Naumova¹, Ganna Kharlamova¹, Olena Naumova², Carl Taswell³

¹ Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine

² KROK University, Ukraine

³ Brain Health Alliance Virtual Institute, USA

Bucharest University of Economic Studies
Bucharest, Romania
11th – 12th June 2026

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Purpose
3. Approach
4. Results
5. Conclusions
6. Acknowledgements



1. INTRODUCTION

The publishing disruption

Traditional subscription-based publishing is being challenged by Open Access models that are reshaping the financial and organizational foundations of scholarly communication.

Structural paywalls
Steep barriers to entry
Market power concentration

Open Science push

A connected internet world, rising demands for transparency, academic accountability and democratized access are transforming how knowledge is disseminated.

Transparency
Accessibility
Accountability
Shared public knowledge



2. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Purpose

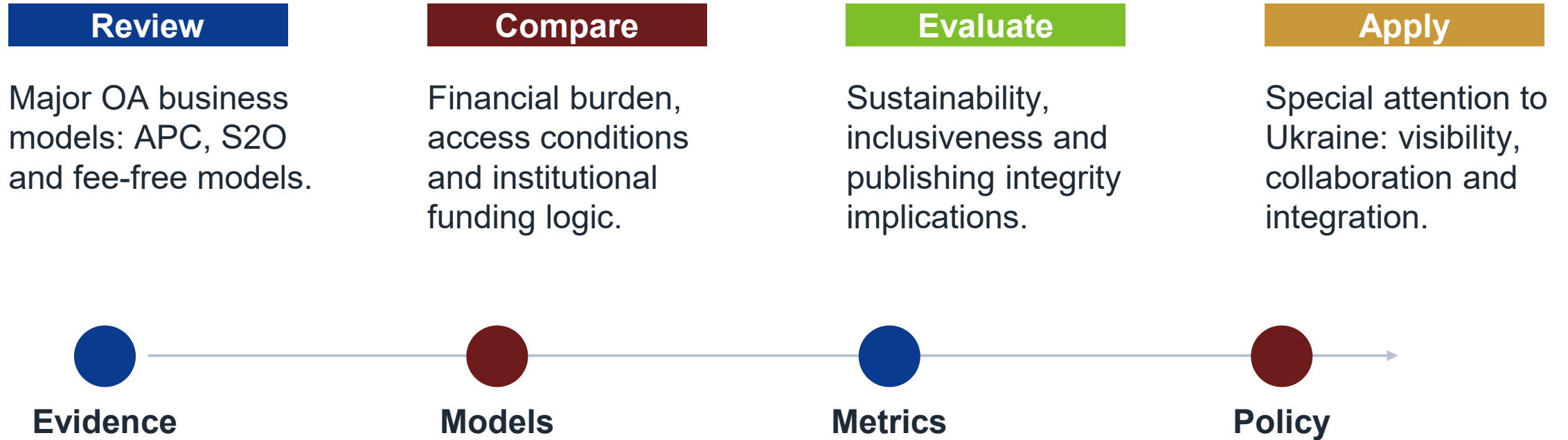
To examine how sustainable Open Access ecosystems can balance financial viability with publishing integrity, while supporting equitable and transparent scholarly communication.

Analytical focus

The study reviews fee-based, subscriber-supported and fee-free OA models, assessing their sustainability, inclusiveness and ability to overcome structural limitations of traditional publishing.



3. APPROACH



Core question: Which OA models can expand access without shifting financial barriers to underfunded authors and institutions?

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED: OPEN ACCESS BUSINESS MODELS

Article Processing Charges (APC)

Author-paid fees to cover publication costs, shifting the financial burden from readers to authors. Accelerates expansion but deepens inequalities.

Subscribe-to-Open (S2O)

S2O converts established journals to OA using cooperative subscription funds without requiring direct author fees. Promotes institutional backing.

Fee-free OA models

Neither authors nor readers pay. Financed by non-profits, institutions, or community-driven university presses to prioritize the common good.

Main result: Fee-based models expand access for readers but can reproduce exclusion for authors. Fee-free models require public benefit non-profit funding.

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED: FEE-FREE COMMUNITY PLATFORMS

Institutional Repositories

University-backed archives allowing researchers to self-archive manuscripts free of charge.

Preprint Servers

Rapid open dissemination before peer review, accelerating scientific dialogue.

University Presses

Academic-led publishing venues prioritizing scholarly value and public good.

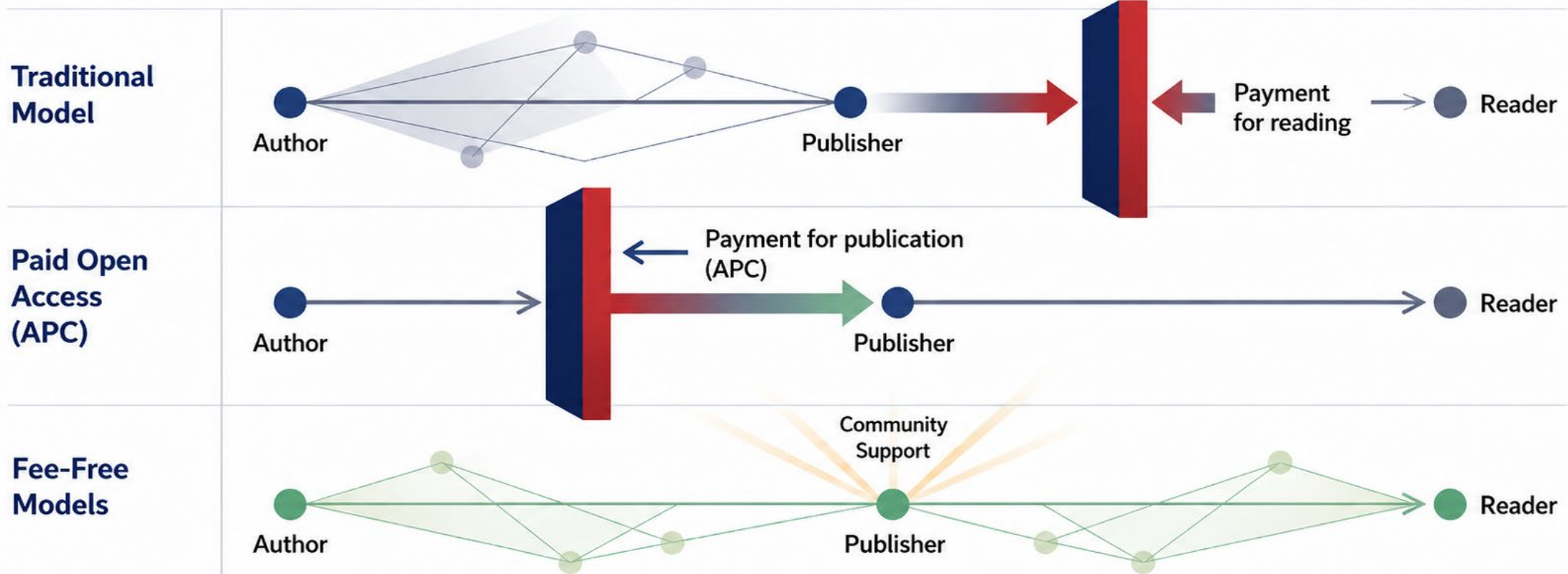
Cooperative Mechanisms

Shared funding coalitions that eliminate financial barriers.

Fee-free models align publishing with the societal value of shared public knowledge. Fee-free models require public benefit funding.



Removing Barriers: How Financial Models Shape the Flow of Knowledge



Key Takeaway: Transitioning to fee-based Open Science models (e.g., APC) does not remove financial barriers; it only shifts them from the reader to the author.

4. RESULTS ACHIEVED: POLICY & INTEGRITY DRIVERS

Plan S Initiative

Publicly funded research should be published in compliant OA journals or platforms immediately upon publication.

UNESCO Framework

Open Science should promote equitable open structures and bridge technological and digital gaps globally.

DREAM & FAIR Metrics

Metadata integrity, provenance, fair attribution and reproducibility protect the historical record of published literature.

Publishing integrity requires both open access and reliable mechanisms for metadata, attribution and provenance.



4. RESULTS ACHIEVED: UKRAINE – VISIBILITY & INTEGRATION

Empowering domestic research

Implementing modern Open Access standards increases the global impact of Ukrainian scientific research and demonstrates societal resilience under wartime constraints.

European Open Science integration

Harmonising local editorial standards with global systems directly supports integration into the European Open Science Area and strengthens research collaboration.



Ukraine's OA trajectory depends on hybrid funding models, institutional support, transparent costs and inclusive publishing practices.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 1 Open Access is not only a technical publication format; it is a governance model for scholarly communication.
 - 2 Fee-based OA models can shift barriers from readers to authors, especially in underfunded systems.
 - 3 Fee-free and cooperative models provide a more inclusive route to sustainable knowledge dissemination.
 - 4 Publishing integrity depends on transparent costs, reliable metadata, attribution, provenance and accountable editorial practices.
 - 5 For Ukraine, OA can strengthen visibility, collaboration and integration despite wartime constraints.
- 

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for the research project No.26GF013-02, **“Theoretical Foundations for Harmonising the Editorial Practices of Ukrainian Scientific Publications with International Standards for Ukraine’s Competitive Integration into the European Open Science Area”**, under contract No. 132.03//0192 dated 02 March 2026 for the implementation of grant support from the National Research Fund of Ukraine (NRFU).

Support for presentation at REMSFATT 2026 Bucharest from non-profit Brain Health Alliance Virtual Institute, Ladera Ranch California, USA.



REFERENCES

- Butler, L.-A., Matthias, L., Simard, M.-A., Mongeon, P., & Haustein, S. (2023). The oligopoly's shift to open access: How the big five academic publishers profit from article processing charges. *Quantitative Science Studies*, 4(4), 778–799. https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00272
- European Commission. (n.d.). *Open science in Horizon Europe*. https://rea.ec.europa.eu/open-science_en
- Plan S / cOAlition S. (n.d.). *Principles and implementation guidance for immediate Open Access*. <https://www.coalition-s.org>
- PORTAL-DOORS Project. (n.d.). *DREAM Principles and FAIR metrics for metadata integrity and provenance*. <https://portaldoors.org>
- Schimmer, R., Geschuhn, K. K., & Vogler, A. (2015). *Disrupting the subscription journals' business model for the necessary large-scale transformation to open access* (Max Planck Digital Library Open Access Policy White Paper). Max Planck Digital Library. <https://doi.org/10.17617/1.3>
- UNESCO. (2021). *Recommendation on Open Science*. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949>



**Thank you for supporting
open scholarship with
open access publishing!**

**Mariia Naumova – mariianaumova@knu.ua
Ganna Kharlamova – ganna.kharlamova@knu.ua
Olena Naumova – olenan@krok.edu.ua
Carl Taswell – ctaswell@bhavi.us**

