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Background
Spanish legislation on science (1), together with recommendations from the European Research Council (2), are at the core of the development of the Andalusia Health Repository. It is the open-access institutional repository of the Andalusia Public Health System. It intends to gather all the scientific output generated by its professionals, resulting from their medical care, research and management activities.

Being respectful with copyright and author rights has been always a priority for the Andalusian eHealth Library in the management of the Repository. Legal criterion is one of the key aspects to accept content in it. However, learning the self-archiving policy of scientific health science journals may be difficult sometimes, despite the valuable help of databases such as Sherpa/Romeo and Dulcinea. This paper examines access policies and self-archiving conditions; use of Creative Commons (CC) licenses; and article processing charges (APCs) of these journals, and compares their implementation in three business model: open access (OA), subscription-based and hybrid journals. The ultimate purpose is to find objective reasons that help our authors to ensure compliance with open access legislation and funding body requirements.

Abstract
Being respectful with copyright and author rights has been always a priority for the Andalusian eHealth Library in the management of the Repository. Legal criterion is one of the key aspects to accept content in it. However, learning the self-archiving policy of scientific health science journals may be difficult sometimes, despite the valuable help of databases such as Sherpa/Romeo and Dulcinea. Therefore, since the set up of the repository, many of these journals’ self-archiving policies have been collected in an internal database. It includes those journals where articles, written by our professionals, have been published. The gathered information includes: if an article may be self-archived in our institutional repository; which version is authorized; specific conditions (embargo period, Creative Commons licenses, statements, etc.); and date that policy was accessed. This database is used for the repository administrators to check a journal’s policy before approving a submission. As of now, the database contains information from more than 2200 journals, mainly in the health sciences field, and it is continually updated to incorporate journals and change of policy for existing ones.

However, the great amount and variance of conditions on self-archiving and embargo periods founded in these journals do not seem to follow a clear pattern.

Now, on the occasion of research aimed at knowing how many articles could be self-archived in any of their versions in the Health Institutional Repository, we gathered more detailed and exhaustive information about the self-archiving policy of 396 scientific journals published by 114 publishers (3). These journals are those where professionals at the Virgen Macarena Hospital, one of Andalusia’s district hospitals, published articles from 2011 and 2015.

This paper examines access policies and self-archiving conditions; use of Creative Commons (CC) licenses; and article processing charges.
(APCs) of these journals, and compares their implementation in three business model: open access (OA), subscription-based and hybrid journals.

The ultimate purpose is to find objective reasons that help our authors to ensure compliance with open access legislation and funding body requirements.

**Objectives**

The objectives are:
- to learn if the type of business model in the Health Sciences journals field is a determining fact on self-archiving and copyright policies;
- to compare article processing charges and use of Creative Commons licenses between open access and hybrid journals;
- to assess embargo periods in relation to Spanish national law and European Research Council’s open access policies.

**Method**

Firstly, the information about journals’ self-archiving policy with reference to institutional repository was collected from different sources: specialized databases, such as Sherpa/Romeo, Dulcinea, or DOAJ; and journal and publishers’ homepages.

Secondly, the information for each journal was classified into the following categories: business model (OA, hybrid and subscription-based journals); use of Creative Commons licenses; APCs; and, embargo periods.

Finally, the data in each category was compared depending on the business model. With regard to APCs, as they were given in different currencies such as, US dollars, British Pound or Swiss Franc, they were converted to Euros to compare them (4).

**Results**

**Business model**

As regards the ability of a person to read a scientific article freely or after paying a toll, 83 of 396 journals included in this study are OA (21%) and 313 are subscription-based journals (79%). However, 277 of the latter group are considered to be hybrid (5) (88%) as they offer authors an option to make their article free immediately upon publication by paying a fee. According to this, the distribution is the following: 21% of the total journals are open access, 9% are purely subscription-based, and 70% are hybrid journals (Figure 1).

**Self-archiving policy**

To self-archive an article, in any of its versions, the author(s) must retain re-use rights.

With reference to the permission for reusing the publisher’s version of articles, there are two stages or degree of OA (6): gratis (“free online access”) and libre (“free online access plus re-use rights”). In the present study, 72 of 83 of OA journals are considered libre OA and the other 11 are gratis OA. That it is to say that as many as 13% journals don’t allow reuse and, consequently, the self-archiving of articles in our institutional repository.

With regard to subscription-based journals, they do not usually give permission to self-archive the published article, but 12 exceptions have been found. 7 permit self-archiving in a non-commercial open access repository after 6 or 12 months embargo. 1 journal deposits articles automatically in PubMed Central after 12 months embargo; and 4 more allow self-archiving on an author’s personal website. In other words, only the first 7 journals allow self-archiving of the publisher’s version in the repository.

In the field of hybrid journals, publishers offer authors the opportunity to make their article freely available immediately upon publication if they pay a fee. As a result, the self-archiving policy depends on whether the author pays this OA option. The published article may be deposited in the repository because the author retains reuse rights. In contrast, when OA option is not paid, publishers establish the
self-archiving policy, and their policies vary enormously in terms of authorized version(s), embargo periods, and websites or repositories where are permitted to self-archive the articles. The exceptions for the general rule are represented by 7 of 277 hybrid journals that allow self-archiving of the published article without paying a fee, under certain conditions and after 12 months embargo. However, 3 of these journals allow self-archiving only on author’s personal or employers’ website, but not in a repository.

Use of Creative Commons licenses
CC licenses (7) are a set of copyright licenses that always reserves the rights of attribution and integrity of the work, but grants permission to reuse, share, distribute, remix and build upon. Depending on the business model of the journal, two different uses may be found: libre OA journals understand licenses as the method of expressing their copyright and sharing policy and the chosen license is applied to the whole content of the journal. In contrast, articles in hybrid journals are not published under a CC license, unless the author has chosen the OA option. Regarding gratis OA journals, as they don’t permit reuse, none of the 11 journals included in this category uses CC licenses. The most used license in this group is Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) as Figure 2 shows.

As regards subscription-based journals, only 1 of them permits self-archiving under Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share Alike License (CC BY-NC-SA) after 12 months embargo. Most of hybrid journals’ publishers specify the CC license that the author must choose to make their article open access, unless the funding body requires another one. It may have an influence on the article processing charges, as will be seen later on. With regard to the licenses, commercial publishers tend to recommend the most restrictive ones (Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (CC BY-NC); CC BY-NC-SA; Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Non Derivative License (CC BY-NC-ND), such as Elsevier (99 journals included in this study), Wiley (54), Oxford University Press (15), Taylor & Francis (9), SAGE (7), Karger (7), or Mary Ann Liebert (5), although CC BY may be used if funding body requires it. On the contrary, other publishers, such as Springer (29 journals), allow that open access articles are published under CC BY License.

In comparison, a large number of OA journals publish their articles under the most liberal Creative Commons license (CC BY), while hybrid journals usually impose non-commercial CC licenses to be chosen by authors (CC BY-NC-ND and CC BY-NC-SA).

Article processing charges
As it has said previously, the APCs have been converted to Euros and the exact amount has been rounded up in order to facilitate comparison. 3 of 11 gratis OA journals charge authors fees of between € 250 and € 1192, while fees for 40 of 72 free open access journals range from € 95 to € 2550. However, the prices for hybrid journals vary even more widely and tend to be more expensive, ranging from € 400 to over € 4100. While 46% of OA journals charge authors from € 1501 to € 2000, only 10% of hybrid journals are in the same range. In contrast, while 2% of OA journals have a fee from € 2501 to € 3000, 52% of hybrid journals are in the same range. More importantly, some hybrid journals have different fees depending on the CC license that the author assigns to their article. There may be a gap from € 200 up to € 1400 between the most restrictive license (CC BY-NC-ND) and the most liberal one (CC BY).
As other studies has stated previously (8), it is clearly visible that APCs for hybrid journals are usually higher than for OA journals (Figure 3).

**Embargo periods**

On the whole, subscription-based and hybrid journals impose a period of time from the article publication until it may be archived, in most cases using one of the author’s versions, in a web site or repository.

In this study, with the exception of 32 of 277 hybrids journals, the remaining 245 impose a period of embargo between 6 months and 3 years: 131 journals (53%) impose 12 months; 101 journals (41%), between 12 to 24 months; and 3 (1%), 3 years.

Regarding subscription-based journals, 2 of 34 permit self-archiving of the published article in a non-commercial open access repository after 6 months embargo; and 4 of them, after 12 months. One journal deposits the publisher’s version automatically in PubMed Central after 12 months; and one more gives permission to archive it in agency repositories when the research has been funded by them.

**Conclusion**

With reference to self-archiving an article in the repository, libre OA journals are the most advantageous because the author retains copyright; whereas in hybrid journals, they only do if they pay an expensive fee. In contrast, in hybrid and subscription-based journals, the author relies heavily on publisher’s self-archiving policy and embargo periods.

Finally, and taking into consideration that the European Research Council establishes that research outcomes funded by its programs should be made publicly available no later than 12 months after publication, and Spanish National Law, no more than six months, the embargo period must be a critical point that authors must weigh before submitting an article to a journal.

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