

American Society for Microbiology: Overview of the Author Journey



Navigating the Publication Process :



- **Submission via ChronosHub:** Authors submit manuscripts through ChronosHub, <https://journals.asm.org/chronoshub> which provides preliminary pricing estimates based on the corresponding author's affiliation.
- ChronosHub Tutorial: <https://youtu.be/nGo8MqmHKy0>



- YouTube
- **Peer Review:** Manuscripts undergo standard peer review processes.
- **Affiliation Validation:** Post-acceptance, all contributing authors' affiliations are validated using Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) like Ringgold IDs.
- **Billing and Licensing:** Validated affiliation data are integrated into RightsLink to determine applicable discounts and finalize billing.
- **Publication and Access:** If any author is affiliated with a subscribing institution, the article is guaranteed to be published Open Access, regardless of whether the journal's sustainability threshold is met. Thus, guaranteeing all authors OA publication.

The author workflow under ASM's Subscribe to Open (S2O) model includes several critical decision points that determine eligibility for Open Access publication and fee discounts. The table below outlines what happens at each stage, and when key decisions are made.

Step	What Happens	Key Decision Point
1. Submission via ChronosHub	Authors submit manuscripts and receive AI-powered assistance with metadata entry. Preliminary pricing estimates are provided based on affiliation data.	Preliminary pricing shown where possible (non-binding)
2. Peer Review	The manuscript undergoes completely independent peer review.	Editorial decisions made without consideration of subscriber status

3. Acceptance	Upon acceptance, the manuscript is transferred to production with its metadata.	Metadata handed off for validation
4. Affiliation Validation	All contributing authors' affiliations are validated using Ringgold IDs and matched against subscriber lists.	Eligibility for S2O OA and fee discounts determined
5. Billing via RightsLink	RightsLink applies appropriate discounts: 25% for subscribers, 50% for ASM members	Final fee calculated and invoiced
6. Publication of VoR	Articles published as a Version of Record in the active S2O year are published Open Access under a CC BY license.	VoR publication date triggers S2O eligibility

Key Questions

How is author affiliation recognized?

Author affiliations are collected at submission but are formally validated *after acceptance* during the production process. Our system validates all contributing authors' affiliations using persistent identifiers (PIDs) such as Ringgold IDs and matches them against ASM's journal-specific subscriber lists.

Which date determines if an article qualifies for Open Access?

The **publication date of the Version of Record (VoR)** determines whether an article is covered by the current year's S2O status. We create yearly cutoffs based on journal turn-times to ensure articles publish in their intended year. However, all billing discounts are determined at manuscript acceptance.

What discounts apply for subscribed members?

Authors from subscribing institutions receive a **25% discount** on page charges and supplemental material fees. ASM members receive an additional **50% discount**

<https://journals.asm.org/publication-fees>

SUBSCRIBE TO OPEN

S2O Community of Practice

"Subscribe to Open" (S2O) is a pragmatic approach for converting subscription journals to open access—free and immediate online availability of research—without reliance on article processing charges (APCs).

S2O relies on existing library subscription procurement processes. The model provides a realistic and immediate route to opening a vast body of research output that would otherwise remain gated.

Subscribe to Open (S2O) – Key Benefits of ASM Publishing for Libraries and Authors

1. **Institution-wide benefits:** "Your subscription doesn't just provide access to content—it guarantees OA publication for all of your researchers."
2. **Author recognition:** "Our validation system recognizes all contributing authors from your institution, not just corresponding authors."
3. **Significant savings:** "Authors from your institution automatically receive a 25% discount on publication fees, and ASM members get an additional 50% off."
4. **Guaranteed OA regardless of thresholds:** "Even if a journal doesn't reach its overall subscription threshold, articles with any author from your institution are still published OA."
5. **Simple pricing transparency:** "Authors see preliminary pricing at submission and receive validated discounts after acceptance."

Common Questions :

Q: "If we subscribe mid-year, do articles already in process get the benefits?"

A: "Articles are eligible based on their Version of Record publication date. If your subscription is active when the article is published, it will be OA."

Q: "How do you handle multi-institutional collaborations?"

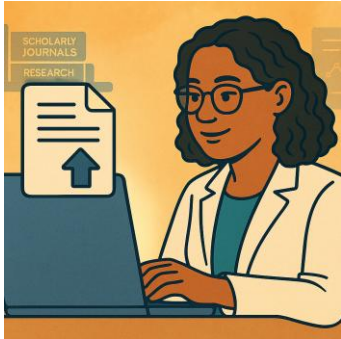
A: "If any author on a paper is from a subscribing institution, the entire article is published OA, benefiting all collaborators."

Q: "What if an author moves institutions during the publication process?"

A: "We validate affiliations after acceptance, so the author's institution at that time determines eligibility for discounts and OA status."

A Case Study: A Researcher from a Subscribing Institution

The Submission



Dr. Rivera, a microbiologist at a subscribing university, just completed a promising study.

She submits her manuscript through ASM's ChronosHub portal, which provides a preview of expected publishing charges based on her institutional affiliation.

The Review Process



Her manuscript goes through peer review, just like any other submission. Editorial decisions are made purely on merit, independent of affiliation or funding status.

Post-Acceptance and Production



Once accepted, all contributing authors' affiliations are validated using Ringgold IDs. The system confirms that Dr. Rivera's university is a subscriber, and notes that she is also an ASM member.

Billing and Discounts



These validations trigger automatic discounts in the billing system. Because Dr. Rivera's paper is 17 pages long, her university subscribes, and her ASM membership is active, her article will cost \$1,334.

Publication with Full OA Benefits



Because her institution supports the S2O model, Dr. Rivera's article is published fully Open Access under a CC BY license. The article is freely available worldwide immediately upon publication as the Version of Record.

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