

Inside the AMS

New Journals from AMS

January 2014 will see the launch of two new gold open access research journals from the AMS.

A proposal for the two new journals was considered in some depth by a special committee, appointed by the president of the AMS. The committee was asked to look at the concept, business model, and implementation issues. The proposal was then subsequently approved by the AMS Council.

The two new journals, *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society, Series B* and *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society, Series B* will serve as companions to the subscription journals *Proceedings* and *Transactions of the AMS*. Each of the new journals will be electronic-only and freely available online, supported by article processing charges (APC) designed to cover the Society's publication costs (these charges are typically paid by a funding agency or by the author's institution and are not expected to be paid by the author personally).

Editorial decisions will be completely independent of whether a paper is intended for the open access journal or its subscription counterpart. *Proceedings B* and *Transactions B* will share common editorial boards and thus submission procedures with their companion journals.

Why Launch Gold Open Access Journals?

The world is changing under our feet. There are shifting profiles of all stakeholders in academic research: authors, readers, institutions, societies, libraries, and publishers. It is quite remarkable to watch the rate of increase of articles published in mathematics and related disciplines. The accompanying graph shows the number of research journal articles added to the Mathematical Reviews (MR) database (MRDB) by journal publication year.

In addition to the stress on publishers and libraries of needing to publish more, there are cultural, market, and consequent business model factors that have led to the need for society publishers to experiment with open access models.

The open access movement really began through the energetic advocacy of the academic community in response to the perceived throttling effect of overly aggressive pricing policies practiced by commercial publishers. As advances in technology shifted the balance

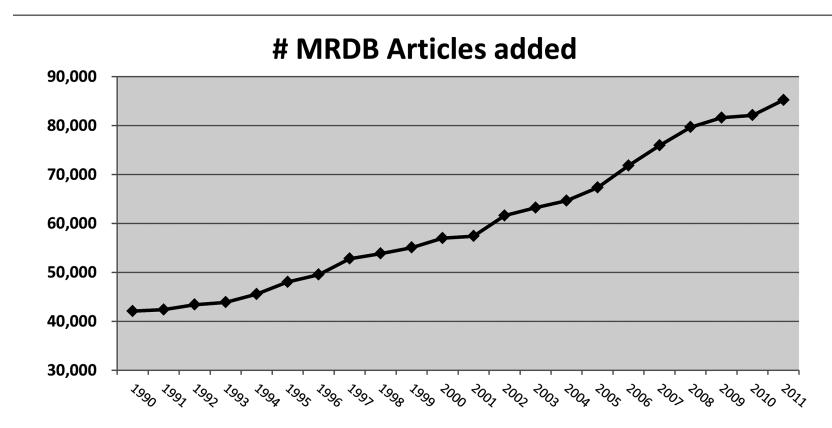
of power towards individual authors and users, it was clear to some that it was time to face copyright issues and the ability to devise new ways of providing access. Such is the nature of this advocacy, of course, that the movement created a polarizing effect on the academic and publishing communities, creating open access advocates pitted against those urging caution in throwing out established business models. These business models remain the lifeblood for many academic societies as their main income stream—so the stage was set for battle—and it roars on amidst politics, rhetoric, pragmatism, and words of caution.

Even some of the world's major funding agencies have become involved. The Research Councils of the UK (RCUK)¹ has issued a mandate that will force RCUK funded researchers to publish in green open access, or gold open access journals. In the U.S., the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)² has issued a memorandum to U.S. funding agencies requesting that they formulate a suitable open access policy for their funded researchers. Others are following suit.

In many ways, the debate over whether gold or green open access is to be favored is at this stage to drill down too far into the detail. The message is loud and clear to society publishers like the AMS. For the AMS to be able to cater to authors as political funders require their researchers to publish in green or gold open access journals, we must provide a path for these authors so as not to

¹<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/documents/documents/RCUKOpenAccessPolicy.pdf>.

²http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf.



disenfranchise mathematicians from wherever they may be in the world.

For the AMS this is an experiment with a new business model that not only allows us to test our innovative variation of gold open access but also allows us to publish more, relieving the stress in the research community caused by the sharp increase of high quality research papers.

It is worth noting that mathematicians are in many respects ahead of the curve in terms of open access, given that much of a mathematician's works appears in one form or another on arXiv³ (an open e-print archive with 8,555,382 e-prints in physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance, and statistics). The AMS is of course already a green open access publisher with liberal policies for deposit of an author's manuscript in repositories, or on an author's own website.

What Is the AMS Model for Gold Open Access?

The key to the AMS approach to gold open access publishing is to separate the editorial decision to publish from the business model applied to the journal.

Consider the case of *Proceedings*, for example. An author will submit his or her article to a common editorial board for both *Proceedings* and *Proceedings B*. Once the article has been through full peer review and is accepted, the author is given the option of routing the article to the regular journal or to the open access companion journal. If an author chooses the open access journal, then on payment of an article processing charge (APC) that paper will move into the relevant queue. There is no jumping a queue, so only those papers with paid APC will enter the open access journal queue in strict order of their acceptance date. An author's article will be published in either the regular journal or the open access journal and thus peer review is entirely separated from the business model.

The open access publication option will be available starting September 1, 2013, for all articles accepted by the *Proceedings* and *Transactions of the AMS* editorial boards. New articles should be submitted via www.ams.org/probsubmit or www.ams.org/transsubmit, and the open access publication decision may be determined by the author upon notification of acceptance.

The article processing charges are:

- *Proceedings of the AMS, Series B*: list price US\$1,500 (2014 discount price US\$750),
- *Transactions of the AMS, Series B*: list price US\$2,750 (2014 discount price US\$1,400).

Further information will become available on www.ams.org as the journals approach their January 2014 release date.

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³<http://arxiv.org/>

From the AMS Public Awareness Office



New Albums on Mathematical Imagery. See *Daina Taimina's Hyperbolic Crochet*, works inspired by William Thurston (see photo, left); *Frank Farris: Seeing Mathematics*, digital works based on photographs of everyday scenes and objects; and *Robert J. Lang: Origami*, additional images of animals, insects, and other folded paper works, at www.ams.org/mathimagery.

AMS—Publishing Mathematics Research for 125 Years. This poster features some of the many notable articles in AMS journals and highlights of MathSciNet and is free upon request. Email paoffice@ams.org with subject line: AMS publishing poster.

AMS exhibits at non-AMS meetings, fall 2013. Please visit the AMS exhibits at the National SACNAS Conference in San Antonio, Texas, October 3–5, and the AMATYC Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, October 31–November 2, and see more upcoming exhibit information at www.ams.org/ams-at-mtg.

AMS Blogs. There are a lot of thought-provoking blog posts on the *Blog on Math Blogs*, *e-Mentoring Network in the Mathematical Sciences*, *AMS Grad Student Blog*, and on *Ph.D. + epsilon*. AMS members are invited to follow the blogs via an RSS feed, share them via social media or email, and comment at blogs.ams.org.

—Annette Emerson and Mike Breen
AMS Public Awareness Officers
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Deaths of AMS Members

GERARD G. EMCH, of Gainesville, Florida, died on March 5, 2013. Born on July 21, 1936, he was a member of the Society for 41 years.

ALAN M. KRIEGSMAN, of Chevy Chase, Maryland, died on August 31, 2012. Born on February 28, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 5 years.

ROBERT R. PHELPS, of Shoreline, Washington, died on January 4, 2013. Born on March 22, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

ALBERT W. SANEZ, of Alexandria, Virginia, died on December 5, 2012. Born on August 27, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 13 years.

CHARLES J. STANDISH, of Greene, New York, died on January 3, 2013. Born on November 10, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 61 years.

NICK H. VAUGHAN, of Sugar Land, Texas, died on May 18, 2013. Born on February 11, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 45 years.