

Personal view on the transformations of the journal of the European Acoustics Association, Acta Acustica

After its creation in 1993, the journal of the EAA has known many progressive transformations. The unity with the journal *Acustica*, in 1996, under the name of *Acta Acustica* united with *Acustica* (AAuA) allowed a real development based on the traditional model of library subscriptions. From 2010, the support by the national societies was reinforced, affirming the solidarity principle between all European countries.

The importance of the printed version decreased, and was replaced year after year by the publication in CD Rom, then by the publication online (in 2007). This general, technical processing should lead to a strong modification of the scientific publishing landscape. First, the piracy became easier; second, the number of journals and papers increased rapidly, together with the prices imposed by the major publishers (and their profits). A consequence for a journal of medium size was the very regular diminution of the number of subscribing libraries: they cannot follow the increase of the expenses, and it was easier to cancel subscriptions to medium sized publishers than to major companies.

These considerations explain why during the years 2010 the idea of changing the economic model came to the European Commission and to several governments in the world. During the Horizon 2020 program (2014-2020), it was imposed to make open the results of research projects (by using repositories). The authors were authorized to upload articles before peer-review. Later, this request by the EC was strengthened: it was requested to upload before 6 months, the articles after peer-review, i.e., the final version. Nevertheless, the publishers generally did not accept that the final version was in Open Access (OA) before a certain embargo time (12 months). Therefore, the unique solution for the authors (or their institution) was to publish their final version in OA by paying Article Processing Charges (APC).

For this reason, many journals proposed to go to a new model, named "hybrid model". The journal can publish in both the traditional way and in OA (with payment by the authors). AAuA adopted this new model in 2016, with a reasonable success (15% of papers in OA). However, the hybrid model was criticized because a drawback was the possibility where some institutions complained that they were paying both a subscription and article processing charges to a journal.

In 2016, the general assembly of the EAA unanimously decided to move to a full OA model before 2020. It appeared that it was essential necessary and possible for *Acta Acustica* to be one the first OA acoustics journal published by an association. The EAA decide that the support to readers will be replaced by the support to authors.

For a long time, the scientific association EAA was used to contributing to financial support of the journal through payment of subscriptions for 9000 EAA members. The solidarity between National Societies was confirmed, and the decision was applied in time by the EAA, with the choice of EDPS as publisher (AAuA became AA). Hirzel, the former publisher of AAuA was too far from the scientific publishing trend to understand the importance of time saving in the competition. The EAA was ahead of the so-called plan S, that was launched by the EC and 16 European funding agencies. This mandates authors funded by one of the signatory agencies to publish only in full OA journals or platforms from 2021.

One year after, it is too early for assessing the success, but 80 submissions for the year 2020 is a solid starting point. Unfortunately, the "unfriendly" attitude of Hirzel tried to slow down the launching of the new journal, and blocked the access of EAA Members to the Archives.

In 2020, an very positive important decision of the last General Assembly last month was to transform *Documenta Acustica* to *Documenta Acustica Electronica*, the repository of European Archives, that will include ALL scientific production in acoustics in Europe, including our Archives of AAuA.

The present landscape of scientific publishing is now largely renewed and in constant move. What kind of further step of the transformation? After the move towards OA for articles, a great challenge will be the extension to Open Data, and generally to Open Science. I am convinced that the journal can be a leader for such an evolution.

I have finished my duties of Editor-in-Chief after 7 years of service and served as an Associate EIC for 6 months to ensure the transition. Although I am now retiring, I will continue supporting our Journal.

Finally, I wish to warmly thank to the EAA board and the new Publisher, EDP Sciences, as well as all Associated Editors of AAuA, then of AA! Obviously, I will want to express my entire confidence trust in the new Editor-in-Chief, Manfred Kaltenbacher!

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Jean Kergomard, Past Editor-in Chief