

Interviews zur Sondierung der Zeitschriftenpublikationspraxis am KIT

Unterlagen und zugehörige Ergebnisse aus der zweiten
Befragungsphase gemäß AP 3 des Projekts „Diamond Thinking“



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Einleitung

Im Rahmen des Projekts „Diamond Thinking“ wurden zwischen Oktober und November 2024 qualitative Interviews mit Herausgeberinnen und Herausgebern verschiedener wissenschaftlicher Zeitschriften durchgeführt. Die sieben ausgewählten Interviewpartnerinnen und -partner sind Mitglieder des Karlsruher Instituts für Technologie (KIT) und haben Erfahrung mit redaktionellen Prozessen in einer oder mehreren Zeitschriften.

Die durchgeführten Interviews waren Teil des Arbeitspakets (AP) 3 „Sondierung der Marktlage für DONAU4KIT.“ Die Gespräche fanden auf Englisch statt; dementsprechend liegen die Ergebnisse überwiegend in englischer Sprache vor. Die Teilnehmenden wurden zu ihren Erfahrungen sowie zu ihrem Kenntnisstand über aktuelle Entwicklungen im Bereich der Zeitschriftenpublikation und zu unterschiedlichen Open-Access-Modellen befragt.

Der vorliegende Bericht umfasst folgende Inhalte:

1. Annex 1: Tabelle mit Übersicht zentraler Interviewinhalte (EN)
2. Annex 2: Fragen- und Antwortmuster zum Interview (EN)
3. Annex 3: Muster der Einverständniserklärung (DE/EN)

Introduction

As part of the Diamond Thinking project, a series of qualitative interviews was conducted between October and November 2024 with editors of various scholarly journals. Seven interviewees were selected, who are members of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) having experience with editorial processes in one or more journals.

These interviews were part of the survey activities in Work Package (WP) 3, “Exploring the market situation for DONAU4KIT.” All interviews were conducted in English, and the results are therefore presented primarily in English. During the interviews, participants were asked about their editorial experiences, their views on current developments in journal publishing, and their familiarity with different Open Access models.

This report contains the following components:

1. Annex 1: Table summarising the interview responses (EN)
2. Annex 2: Interview questions and response template (EN)
3. Annex 3: Sample consent form (DE/EN)

ANNEX 1: TABELLE MIT ÜBERSICHT ZENTRALER INTERVIEWINHALTE

Questionnaire Ref.	Relevant topics	Interviewee 1	Interviewee 2	Interviewee 3	Interviewee 4	Interviewee 5	Interviewee 6	Interviewee 7
Metadata	Interview date	11.9.2024	11.09.2024	12.09.2024, teams	18.09.2024	30.09.2024	02.10.2024	15.10.2024
Metadata	Journal role/designation	Associate Editor	EIC	Former EIC, now Ass. Editor	EIC	EIC	Former EIC	Former associate editor
Metadata	Publisher, APC	Elsevier, 4300	Elsevier, 3110	Springer, 2390	Springer, 2390	Springer, 2390	Elsevier, 2840	Springer
Metadata	Nature of journal: OA = 1; Hybrid = 0	0	0	0	0	1	0	NR
1.a	Founded by Editors, scientific community = 1; Started by Publisher = 0	1	0	1	1	0	1	NR
1.b	Decisions about members: By Editorial Board = 1; By Publisher = 0	1	1	1	1	1	1	NR
1.c	Frequency of publication, Continuous= C; issues=I	I=12	I	I=4	I=6	I=3	?	NR
2.	Ownership of title by editorial board = 1; by Publisher = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	NR
3.	Journal content autonomy, Editorial board = 1; Publisher = 0	1	1	1	1	1	1	NR

4.a	Involvement in journal activity in terms of hours/week	3	4	6	5	8	4 days/week	
4.b.i	Multilevel workflow: Process set by publisher	EiC, Ass. Ed, Rev. Ed.	Ass. Ed, Reviewer		Ass.Ed, review		EIC, Editors, reviewer	
4.b.ii	Editorial levels, e.g., Acquisition editor, section editor etc.							
4.c.	Use of software, which one.	Editorial Manager	Editorial Manager	Editorial Manager	Editorial Manager to Snap	Editorial Manager	old management system during his time	
4.d.	Additional paid staff, other than publisher	no	Publisher gives money for HiWi and assistants	Such support is offered by the publisher	no	no	no	
5.a.	Sustenance policy: Paid authorship for OA, Paid = 0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	
5.b.	Sustenance policy: Aware of DOA: Yes=1; No = 0	0	1	1	considers same as deal	0	NR	
5.c.	Sustenance policy: Do you think APC is justified	No	Yes, Waivers and Deals	Deal and waiver		no	NR	
6.a.	Satisfaction level with publisher, scale of 1-10	8	7	8	9	8, but during transition phase 2	8 or 9	8 or 9
6.b.	How can the service be improved?	Speed of review,	Lack of disciplinary	communication and continuity of	Snap system has not enough	there needs to be 1 contact	lack of flexibility, strict policies	more visibility, corrections

		journal manager	specialization,	services by some employees	technical support, authors have no contact with technical or support staff, the staffing is irregular	person for questions	of acceptance	made possible later
6.c.	Clash of opinion between editors and publishers? Yes = 0; No = 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	NR
7.a.	Any discussion among editors to publish with university publisher? Yes = 1; No = 0	0	0	0	0	0	NR	NR
7.b.	Has the editor ever personally published with a university publisher?	No	No, Springer is reputed	Yes, oxford, satisfied	no	yes	yes	yes
7.c.	Expectations from a university press (Subjective)			good production, review and reference process, reputation	good reviewing system, dependable staff, reputation, editorial board	leaner structure, transparency	reputation	publishers should do content review and corrections
8.	Aware of the recommendations of DFG and	No	Springer pays OA society, and EU has		changing nature of open access		getting reviewers	NR

	Wissenschaftsrat about high APC and publisher profit?		ist OA system supported by Elsevier				
9.	Common challenges as an editor	1. Load Balance, 2. Finding good reviewers, 3. Professional Team	Commitment from other editors	finding referees	responsibility for reputation, finding reliable and qualified reviewers, long review cycle, speedy publication pressure		recognition as reviewer Recognition as reviewer of the year
10.a.	Incentivising peer reviewers	Pay honorarium, commercial support, discounts for books	credit as a reviewer, best reviewer award, editorial board membership	reputed editors	peer pressure, reviewer recognition programme	badge, involve the authors	community spirit
10.b.	What motivates you to peer review an article	Duty as a scientist, service to the scientific community; reputation of the journal or relationship with editors; genuine interest in the topic	Social circle, sense of duty towards scholarship, quality check in the discipline		sense of duty, interest in the topic, personal motivation	sense of duty	

ANNEX 2: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE SHEET TEMPLATE

TABLE 1

During data anonymisation, this table should be removed. This is only for the use of the interviewer.

Date and Place of the interview	
Name of the Interviewee	
Disciplinary Specialization and Affiliation	
Experiences in Journals (if not names, journals)	
Current Journal Publisher	
Type of Journal	Hybrid/Subscription <input type="checkbox"/> Golden <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond <input type="checkbox"/>

TABLE 2

S.no	Question	Response
1.	a) Who founded the journal? (Did the publisher start the journal or was it founded by someone from the academic community, who later served as an editor in the journal)	1) Publisher <input type="checkbox"/> 2) Founding Editor <input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Who decides the constitution of the editorial board? Does the publisher nominates them of election?	1) Wissenschaftler <input type="checkbox"/> 2) Autonomous <input type="checkbox"/> Selected by the Verlag <input type="checkbox"/> Does the publisher have representatives in the editorial board? Ya <input type="checkbox"/> And.....
	c) What is the journal about?	

S.no	Question	Response		
	What is the publication frequency?			
2	Who owns the Journal Title?	Editorial Board <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific Society <input type="checkbox"/> Publisher <input type="checkbox"/>		
3.	How autonomous is your editorial board with decisions on various topics, for example, review policy, membership in editorial board, journal policy, etc.		<i>Editors</i>	<i>Verlag</i>
		Review Policy <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Membership in editorial Board <input type="checkbox"/>		
		Journal Policy <input type="checkbox"/>		
4.	Tasks of the Editor	a) Daily ____ Hours		
	a) How many hours do you spend in average for editorial work.	b) Weekly _____ hours		
	b) How does the workflow look like? How automatized it ?	c) Monthly _____ ?		
		i. The production process was set by the Publisher or editor(s)?		
		ii. There are acquisition editors, section editors?		
	c) Do you use a software or a journal platform to systematize the work? Which one?			
	d) Do you have any additional paid staff other than those working with the publishers (eg., HiWi for maintaining database etc.)?			
5.	Sustenance policy: Are you aware of any funding model for the journal?	a. Is your journal readership subscription based or open access and readable without any paywall?		
		b. Are you aware of what Diamond OA Journal is?		
	When funded with APC:	Do you think the cost of the journal and APC fair and justified?		

S.no	Question	Response
6.	Publisher's Policies: Relationship between Editors and Publisher	<p>a. How will you rate the services of your current publisher on a scale of 0 to 10 (where 0 is absolutely unsatisfied and 10 is fully satisfied)?</p> <p>b. What would you like improved in your current publisher's services?</p> <p>c. Have you ever had a clash of opinion with the publishers regarding editorial policies or journal policies?</p>
7.	Experience with Institutional Publisher	<p>a. Have the editors ever considered publishing with an institutional publisher (university press)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not yet <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure of <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>b. Have you personally published with an institutional publisher (university press)?</p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> How was your experience?</p> <p>c. What will be your expectations from a Uni Press?</p>
8.	Fair Publishing	<p>Are you aware of recent reform recommendations by the DFG (2022)¹ and Wissenschaftsrat (2022)²? In their observations they have pointed at the unsustainable finance models of conventional commercial publishers, who levy very high APCs. As a recommendation, they suggest institutions and scientists collaborating and coming up with their own sustainable publication channels.</p>
9.	Challenges:	<p>What are the common challenges that an editor may face?</p>

¹ „Wissenschaftliches Publizieren als Grundlage und Gestaltungsfeld der Wissenschaftsbewertung“, <https://zenodo.org/records/6538163>

² „Empfehlungen zur Transformation des wissenschaftlichen Publizierens zu Open Access (Drs. 9477-22), Januar 2022“, <https://www.wissenschaftsrat.de/download/2022/9477-22.pdf>

S.no	Question	Response
10.	<p>Peer review: What are the common ways of incentivising peer reviewers? Did your journal have a policy?</p>	
	<p>When you are invited to peer review, what are your motivations to support as a researcher?</p>	

ANNEX 3: EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG ZUR ERHEBUNG UND VERARBEITUNG VON INTERVIEWDATEN

Zweck des Interviews

Das Interview findet im Rahmen des BMBF-Projektes „Diamond Thinking“ (Förderkennzeichen: 16KOA006B) statt. Das Projekt befasst sich mit der Erweiterung der Publikationsdienstleistungen des Wissenschaftsverlags im Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (Karlsruhe). Ein zentrales Ziel des Projektes ist die enge Einbindung der wissenschaftlichen Gemeinschaft im Sinne von „scholar-led Publishing“.

Titel des Projektes: BMBF-Projekt „Diamond Thinking“ (Förderkennzeichen: 16KOA006B)

Laufzeit des Projektes: September 2023 – August 2025

Institution: KIT-Bibliothek, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

Projekt Ansprechpartner: Dr. Mamta Dwivedi und Christine Rohde

Einverständniserklärung des/r Teilnehmer*innen

1. Ich erkläre mich dazu bereit, im Rahmen des Projektes „Diamond Thinking“ am Interview teilzunehmen. Ich wurde über das Ziel und den Verlauf des Projektes informiert.
2. Ich bin damit einverstanden, dass mein Interview mit einem Aufnahmegerät aufgezeichnet wird. Zum Zwecke der Datenanalyse können die mündlich erhobenen Daten verschriftlicht (Transkription) werden, wobei die Daten anonymisiert oder pseudonymisiert werden, damit sie nicht mit meiner Person in Verbindung gebracht werden können.
3. Ich wurde darüber informiert, dass einzeln Sätze nach Anonymisierung zu wissenschaftlichen Zwecken genutzt werden können. Falls Material von meinem Interview publiziert wird, kann es nicht mit meiner Person in Verbindung gebracht werden.
4. Ich wurde darüber informiert, dass die Interviewdaten gespeichert werden und spätestens drei Monate nach Projektende gelöscht werden.
5. Ich verstehe, dass keine dritte Partei in die Verarbeitung der Daten und Antworten involviert wird.

Der Speicherung der personenbezogenen Daten zu Dokumentationszwecken kann durch die interviewte Person jederzeit widersprochen werden. Die Teilnahme an dem Interview erfolgt freiwillig. Das Interview kann zu jedem Zeitpunkt abgebrochen werden. Das Einverständnis zur Aufzeichnung und Weiterverwendung der Daten kann jederzeit widerrufen werden.

Name, Vornames des*r Interviewten: _____

Unterschrift Interviewte*r:

Ort, Datum:

Datum des Interviews

ANNEX:3 CONSENT FORM FOR THE COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF INTERVIEW DATA

Purpose of the Interview

This Interview is a part of the ongoing BMBF Project “Diamond Thinking” at the KIT Scientific Publishing, University Library, KIT. With this project, the university press adds journal publishing to its existing offered services, i.e., books and conference proceedings. In the spirit of scholar-led publishing, the involvement of the scientific community through conversation is one of the main goals of the project.

Title of the Project: BMBF-Projekt „Diamond Thinking“ : Diamond OA Journals at KIT (Grant number: 16KOA006B)

Project Span: September 2023 – August 2025

Institution: KIT-Bibliothek, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

Contact Persons: Mamta Dwivedi and Christine Rohde

Consent Form for the Participant(s)

- 1) I declare that I was informed about the purpose of the interview and my queries about the interview as well as the project were answered before the start of the interview.
- 2) I understand that the interview will be recorded with an audio-recording device. For the purpose of data analysis, the orally collected data may be transcribed, with the data being anonymized or pseudonymized so that they cannot be linked to me personally.
- 3) I have been informed that individual sentences may be used for scientific purposes after anonymization. If material from my interview is published, it cannot be linked to me personally.
- 4) I have been informed that the interview data will be stored and deleted not later than three months after the project ends.
- 5) I understand that no third party outside KIT Scientific Publishing will be involved in the processing of the data and responses.

The interviewee can object to the storage of personal data for documentation purposes at any time. Participation in the interview is voluntary. The interview can be terminated at any time. Consent to the recording and further use of the data can be withdrawn at any time.

Surname, First name of the Interviewee: _____

Signature of the interviewee

Place, Date

Date of the Interview