



## Moving to open access

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## Moving to open access

I am delighted to announce that the *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* will embark on a new journey in 2017 as a fully open access journal. This means that the research published in the *Journal* will be available for anyone to read anywhere, at any time providing they have an internet connection.

This decision was not made lightly but was based on current trends in the marketplace. Funding agencies and governments more and more are requiring that the results from projects they fund be made openly available and they often provide the funds to cover the article publication charges. At the same time, library budgets for subscriptions are being reduced at a global scale. This makes it harder for paper journals, especially smaller ones, to exist under the subscription model.

Open access journals are growing in number and popularity, and I and the editorial team at Taylor and Francis are confident that the journal will have a more secure future as an open access journal compared with continuing to rely on subscriptions. Two important benefits are faster publication time and greater availability to a wider readership.

For our readers, authors and reviewers, the only noticeable change will be the conversion to online only publication of articles. The *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* will still carefully peer review all submitted papers as before. It will retain rigorous quality control such that only meaningful and important new results are accepted for publication. Becoming an open access journal will mean that *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* will see strong growth in usage and therefore potential citations, and greater public impact as the journal will be available for a much wider audience.

The article publishing charge for *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* is now £470/\$750/€625 which is comparable to a longer paper at our previous page charge rate and is in line with current funding and other journals in the field. I am excited that we are taking this major step forward to ensure the long-term viability of this well-respected journal.

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