

## Story

SAGE, which defines itself as the “world’s largest independent academic publisher” on its website, bought Libertas Academica in 2016, which is one step in moving to the open access space. SAGE publishes more than 1000 journals and offer the possibility of hybrid gold open access publishing for almost all of them.

It’s the first time this research team looks at the current state of the Open Access options available with SAGE. Data from 2016 and 2017 will be analyzed. This article will also examine the journals from Libertas Academica and look at the APC variations with previous years to determine if the APCs changed when SAGE acquired their journals. Finally, this analysis includes a comparison of the APC metadata available in DOAJ for this publisher.

## Abstract

SAGE, which defines itself as the “world’s largest independent academic publisher” on its website, bought Libertas Academica in 2016, which is one step in moving to the open access space. SAGE publishes more than 1000 journals and offer the possibility of hybrid gold open access publishing for almost all of them. 165 journal published by SAGE are in fully open access.

**In 2016**, around 86% of fully open access journals have an APC. The APC average is 1084 USD.

**In 2017**, around 84% of fully open access journals have an APC, but only 16% of those have an APC in DOAJ. Of the APCs available in DOAJ, around 33% varies from the APCs found in SAGE. Less than 2% of fully open access journals have an APPC.

Only 2 journals published by SAGE do not have publications fees.

The APC average for fully open is 1011 USD (excluding the journals from Libertas Academica). For SAGE Choice hybrid option, SAGE website says the APCs is 3000 USD. There are some pricing exceptions in the SAGE Choice hybrid option. The average for those journals is 1275 USD. The average for the journals previously published by Libertas Academica is 1784 USD

A comparison between 2016 and 2017 data for Libertas Academica journals, now owned by SAGE, show **no variations in prices for the same journals**. However, the 2016 data is missing 7 journals from its list that appear on the 2017 data. 6 of these journals are no longer in Open Access model. 1 journal has a 1085 USD APC.

## Method

SAGE offers two way to publish in open access, **Pure Gold Open Access** and **SAGE Choice**, which is a hybrid gold open access offer. SAGE also offers Green Open Access Archiving but this will not be discussed in this analysis. SAGE also purchased Libertas Academica in 2016, and still offer fully open access to most of their 83 journals.

The **SAGE Pure Gold Open Access journals** give access to the full-text of articles freely, supported by the payment of an APC. The **hybrid SAGE Choice**, rightly named, gives the author the choice to publish via gold open access and to make articles freely accessible in exchange of an APC. SAGE also provided a list of the journals that do NOT offer SAGE Choice option.

For the **2016 data**, a list of the SAGE Pure Gold Open Access journals was extracted from the 2016 Main Data spreadsheet (February 1, 2016). This data comes from DOAJ and Walt Crawford data. Since the method to get the 2016 data differs from the 2017 data, they will not be compared.

The APC average was calculated using USD prices when available. The other currencies were converted to USD with the Bank of Canada conversion rate (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016).

For the **2017 data**, a list of the SAGE Pure Gold Open Access journals was transcribed in a spreadsheet on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A list of the Libertas Academica was screen-scraped and added to the spreadsheet on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. On that spreadsheet, the APCs amount and currency were added with the information available directly from Authors' Instructions of the journals website. The total number of journals was taken from the publisher's website by the search results amount.

The APC average for each option was calculated using the USD prices when available or were converted to USD with the Bank of Canada currency converter (March 28<sup>st</sup>, 2017) and rounded up to the next whole number. The total amount of APC was calculated automatically from the updated spreadsheet, divided by the number of journals for each option.

The **data for Libertas Academica journals** was, as mentioned earlier, screen-scraped from SAGE website on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. For previous years' data, the research team Libertas Academica spreadsheet was used (last updated on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016).

The comparison of the APCs with the APCs available on DOAJ was done with the updated spreadsheet and the January 31<sup>th</sup>, 2017 APCs' extraction from DOAJ.

## Results

### 2016 Data

The data in 2016, SAGE published only 29 Pure Gold Open Access journals.

**Table 1. Summary of Pure Gold Open Access Journals 2016**

Code	Amount	Percentage
APC	25	86.21%
Cost not specified	1	3.45%
F (WC)*	3	10.34%
TOTAL	29	100%

\*These APCs were in Walt Crawford's date

The APC average for SAGE Pure Gold Open Access is 1084.28 USD (including only the 25 journals with APCs). As mentioned in the method section, the data for SAGE was extracted from the Main Spreadsheet of 2016. This data cannot be compared with the 2017 data, but it still arguable that these numbers show an increase in the number of open access journals offered by SAGE in 2017.

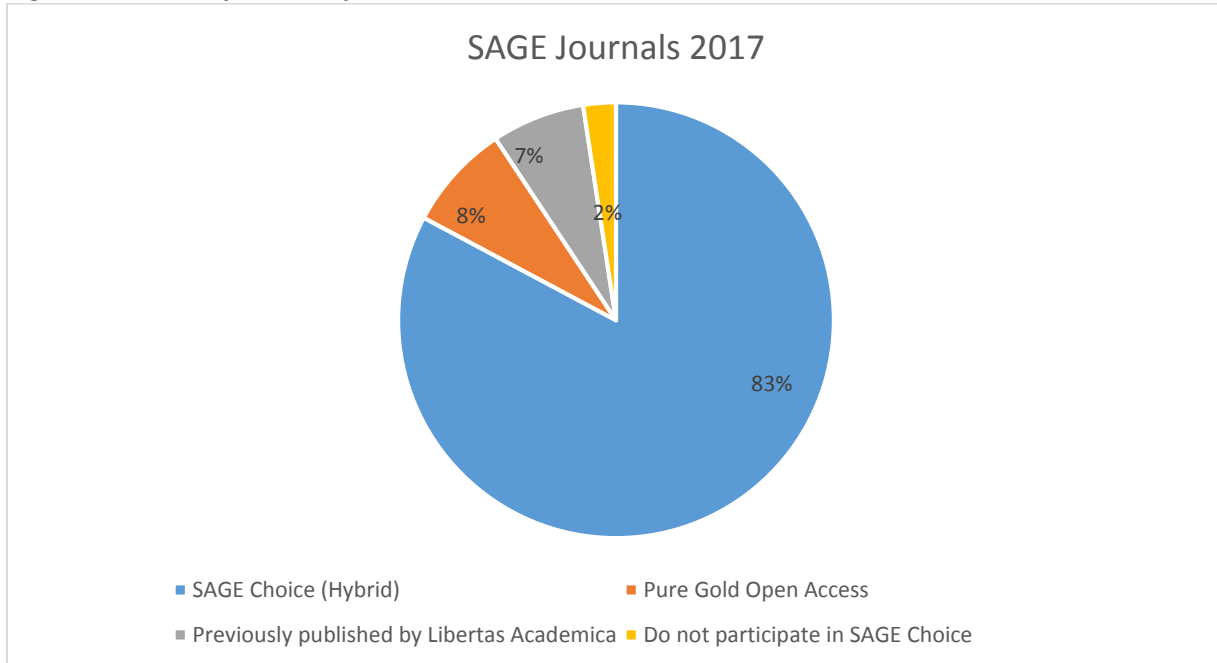
## 2017 Data

Per its website (in March 2017), SAGE publishes 1116 journals. Of these journals:

- 88 journals are Pure Gold Open Access (8%),
- 77 journals of the 83 journals that were published by Libertas Academica (open access publisher), still offer open access options (7%),
- 27 journals to not participate to the SAGE Choice Journal (3%),
- which leaves 924 journals that participates in SAGE Choice (90%). Of these, 18 journals have pricing exceptions that were compiled in the spreadsheet.

These numbers show **an increase of 59 Pure Gold Open Access journals** published by SAGE from 2016. With the acquisition of Libertas Academica, this increase of OA journals published by SAGE amounts to **136 more journals than 2016.**

**Figure 1. Summary of SAGE journals**



**Table 2. Summary of Pure Gold Open Access Journals 2017**

Code	Amount	Percentage
APC (includes 77 journals from Libertas Academica)	139	84.25%
APPC	2	1.22%
Title not found	13	7.88%
0 (waived)	7	4.25%
No cost found	1	0.61%
No publication fees	2	1.22%
No longer published	1	0.61%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>100.04% (with rounding up)</b>

The APC average for SAGE Pure Gold Open Access is 1011.05 USD (including only the 62 journals with APCs, excluding Libertas Academica journals) and for Libertas Academica journals is 1783.68 USD.

The average APC from 2016 data is 80 USD more than the average from 2017 data.

The APC standard for the SAGE Choice hybrid option is mentioned on SAGE website as being 3000 USD. As mention previously, some 18 journals have pricing exception. The average for these is 1275 USD.

The average for the journals that do not participate in SAGE Choice was not calculated because no data was compiled for those journals.

### Libertas Academica data

A comparison between 2016 and 2017 data for Libertas Academica journals, now owned by SAGE, show no variations in prices for the same journals. However, the 2016 data is missing 7 journals from its list that appear on the 2017 data. 6 of these journals are no longer in Open Access model. 1 journal has a 1085 USD APC.

### DOAJ Comparison

Of the 165 Pure Gold Open Access journals (including Libertas Academica), 95 journals (16%) had metadata on DOAJ relating to the APCs. Of these 95 journals, had no information related to cost. On the total of journals, the 24 journals represent around 1% (0,94%).

31 journals (32.63%) of the APCs available in DOAJ were not the same as the APCs available on SAGE website.

**Table 3. Comparison T&F Journals APCs and DOAJ Extracted APCs**

	SAGE website APCs	Currency	DOAJ APCs	Currency	Variations (Y/N)	Amount
Acta Radiologica Open	600	GBP	600	GBP	N	
Advances in Mechanical Engineering	2000	USD	2000	USD	N	
AERA Open	700	USD	700	USD	N	
Air, Soil and Water Research ESCI	1699	USD	1699	USD	N	
Analytical Chemistry Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
ASN Neuro	1950	USD	1950	USD	N	
Big Data & Society	0	USD	no fees		Y	
Biochemistry Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Bioinformatics and Biology Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Biomarker Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Biomarkers in Cancer	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Biomedical Engineering and Computational Biology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Breast Cancer: Basic and Clinical Research ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Cancer Growth and Metastasis	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Cancer Informatics	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Disorders	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Blood Disorders	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Cardiology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Case Reports	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Circulatory, Respiratory and Pulmonary Medicine	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Ear, Nose and Throat	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Endocrinology and Diabetes	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Gastroenterology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Oncology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	

Clinical Medicine Insights: Pathology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Pediatrics	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Reproductive Health	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Therapeutics	1699	USD	1699	USD	N	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Trauma and Intensive Medicine	1699	USD	950	USD	Y	
Clinical Medicine Insights: Women's Health	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
DIGITAL HEALTH	0	USD	no fees		Y	
Dose-Reponse	title not found		1500	USD	Y	
Drug Target Insights	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Environmental Health Insights	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Evolutionary Bioinformatics Impact Factor	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Evolutionary Psychology	195	USD	195	USD	N	
Gene Regulation and Systems Biology	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Genetics & Epigenetics	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Gerontology & Geriatric Medicine	1200	USD	600	USD	Y	
Global Pediatric Health	1300	USD	1300	USD	N	
Global Qualitative Nursing Research	500	USD	995	USD	Y	
Health Psychology Open	750	USD	1500	USD	Y	
Health Services Insights	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Health Services Research & Managerial Epidemiology	1200	USD	1200	USD	N	
Healthy Aging & Clinical Care in the Elderly	1699	USD	1350	USD	Y	
Infectious Diseases: Research and Treatment	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing	750	USD	1500	USD	Y	
Integrative Cancer Therapies	900	USD	1350	USD	Y	
Integrative Medicine Insights	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
International Journal of Advances Robotic Systems	1100	USD	1100	USD	N	
International Journal of Distributed Sensor Networks	2000	USD	2000	USD	N	
International Journal of Engineering Business Management	600	USD	1200	USD	Y	
International Journal of Insect Science	1848	USD	1699	USD	Y	
International Journal of Micro Air Vehicles	600	USD	1200	USD	Y	
International Journal of Ocean and Climate Systems	450	USD	900	USD	Y	
International Journal of Qualitative Methods	1000	USD	1500	USD	Y	
International Journal of Spray and Combustion Dynamics	600	USD	1200	USD	Y	
International Journal of Tryptophan Research ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
I-Perception	530	GBP	375	GBP	Y	
Japanese Clinical Medicine ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Journal of Algorithms & Computational Technology	600	USD	1200	USD	Y	
Journal of Cell Death	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Journal of Central Nervous System Disease	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Journal of Circulation Biomarkers	0	USD	no fees		Y	
Journal of Experimental Neuroscience	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports	700	USD	700	USD	N	
Journal of Genomes and Exomes	1699	USD	669	USD	Y	
Journal of Inborn Errors of Metabolism and Screening (JIEMS)	498	USD	995	USD	Y	
Journal of International Medical Research	325 (APPC)	GBP	2600	GBP	Y	
Journal of Investigative Medicine High Impact Case Reports	500	USD	500	USD	N	
Journal of Medical Education and Curricular Development	1085	USD	974	USD	Y	
Journal of Patient Experience	no fees		no fees		N	
Journal of Tissue Engineering	1500	USD	1500	USD	N	
Journals of the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System	2640	USD	1600	GBP	Y	
JRSM Open	495	GBP	450	GBP	Y	
Magnetic Resonance Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	

Microbiology Insights	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Molecular Imaging	1200	USD	2200	USD	Y	
Molecular Pain	2500	USD	2500	USD	N	
Multiple Sclerosis Journal - Experimental, Translational and Clinical	1000	USD	2000	USD	Y	
Nanobiomedicine	0	USD	no fees		Y	
Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology	1000	USD	1000	USD	N	
Nutrition and Metabolic Insights ESCI	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Ophthalmology and Eye Diseases	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine	1000	USD	1000	USD	N	
Perspectives in Medicinal Chemistry	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
Rehabilitation Process and Outcome	1699	USD	1699	USD	N	
Research & Politics	0	USD	no fees		Y	
SAGE Open	395	USD	395	USD	N	
SAGE Open Medical Case Reports	445	USD	445	USD	N	
SAGE Open Medicine	895	USD	595	USD	Y	
Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	
The Journal of Computational Multiphase Flows	1200	USD	1200	USD	N	
Trends in Hearing	1000	USD	699	USD	Y	
Virology: Research and Treatment	1848	USD	1848	USD	N	