



January 21, 2008

## **NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **BERKELEY RESEARCH IMPACT INITIATIVE**

The University strives both to maximize the benefits of Berkeley's research for the scholarly community and to advance knowledge in ways that improve the quality of life in local and global communities. Today Berkeley joins other universities in the United States and Europe in offering its researchers access to funding to cover publication charges for open access (OA) journals and fees charged by non-OA publishers that are willing to provide immediate free access to articles.

#### **SCOPE**

Fees covered by the Berkeley Research Impact Initiative (BRII) include publication charges for open access publishers such as PLoS and BioMed Central. The fund also covers a portion of fees charged by non-OA publishers such as Elsevier, Springer, Taylor & Francis, Oxford, Cambridge and others who increasingly are offering an option to authors to make their article freely-available for reading immediately upon publication. Frequently referred to by the publisher as an "open choice" or "paid access" charge, these fees can range from \$500-\$3100 per article. Open access or paid access fees may be discounted based on a UCB Library membership or subscription. The BRII website at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/brii> includes links to an updated list of qualifying publishers.

#### **RATIONALE**

BRII improves access to UCB research by providing authors with funds to help cover open access and paid access publishing fees not supported by grants or contracts. BRII recognizes the growth of open access publishing and its success in increasing the impact of research findings. BRII also recognizes the emerging option provided by commercial and not-for-profit publishers to provide access to all readers immediately upon publication for an incremental fee.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Articles published after January 1 2008 are eligible for this program. Requests for funding may be made before an article has been accepted or immediately upon acceptance. Authors with sufficient funding from grants or contracts are encouraged not to request these limited funds: we hope that this will help maximize the number of UCB authors that can share in the benefit of open publications. Authors with more than one article may apply for funds more than once but should

submit separate applications. Application information and materials will be available at [www.lib.berkeley.edu/scholarlycommunication](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/scholarlycommunication) .

## **SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDING SOURCES**

The Berkeley Research Impact Initiative (BRII) is a pilot program co-sponsored by the Vice Chancellor for Research and the University Librarian with the advice and counsel of the Academic Senate Committee on the Library and Scholarly Communication of the Academic Senate.

## **COMMENT ON PUBLISHING CHOICES**

Choosing where to publish is an individual decision and should be based on a clear understanding of the advantages and disadvantages it may present to the author's career development. Open access and non- open access journals have a wide range of impact, which can be measured in a variety of ways. Before making a personal decision about where to publish, seek out the advice of a department chair, mentor, and/or other senior colleagues.

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