

Piloting

an OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING FUND *for* EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

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Goals

The library set aside \$25,000 of discretionary funding to explore the feasibility of aiding early-career researchers who wished to publish in OA journals. By providing this funding the library hoped to:

- Promote publishing by early-career researchers
- Enable authors to retain their copyrights
- Accelerate the online availability of peer-reviewed scholarly journal articles generated by the Institution's researchers
- Raise campus awareness about the benefits of open access

Results

The program began slowly, with only four applications in the first three months. Additional publicity and increased word of mouth led to a rise in submissions, and after nine months 19 applications, including at least one from each school the library supports, had been approved, and \$19,500 had been expended. Based on these results, the decision was made to extend the pilot for an additional year and \$25,000 in additional funds were guaranteed.

To date 49 applications have been submitted, with 40 accepted and \$45,518 dollars guaranteed for an average award of \$1137.95. Rejections were primarily because the journals selected were hybrid and not entirely OA. And several applicants were awarded matching funds, only to have their submissions rejected by the publisher.

Conclusion

The OA publishing fund pilot project has been a great success, and if a source of stable funding is found it will be continued and expanded.

Since there is a surge in applications with each round of publicity, a method of continuous and targeted marketing of the fund should be devised.

Further promotion of and education about OA publishing in general may also increase early-career researchers' use of the program.

Process

A task force was formed to develop policy and procedures for the project. They explored OA publishing funds at other institutions, particularly at other health sciences libraries and within their library consortium.

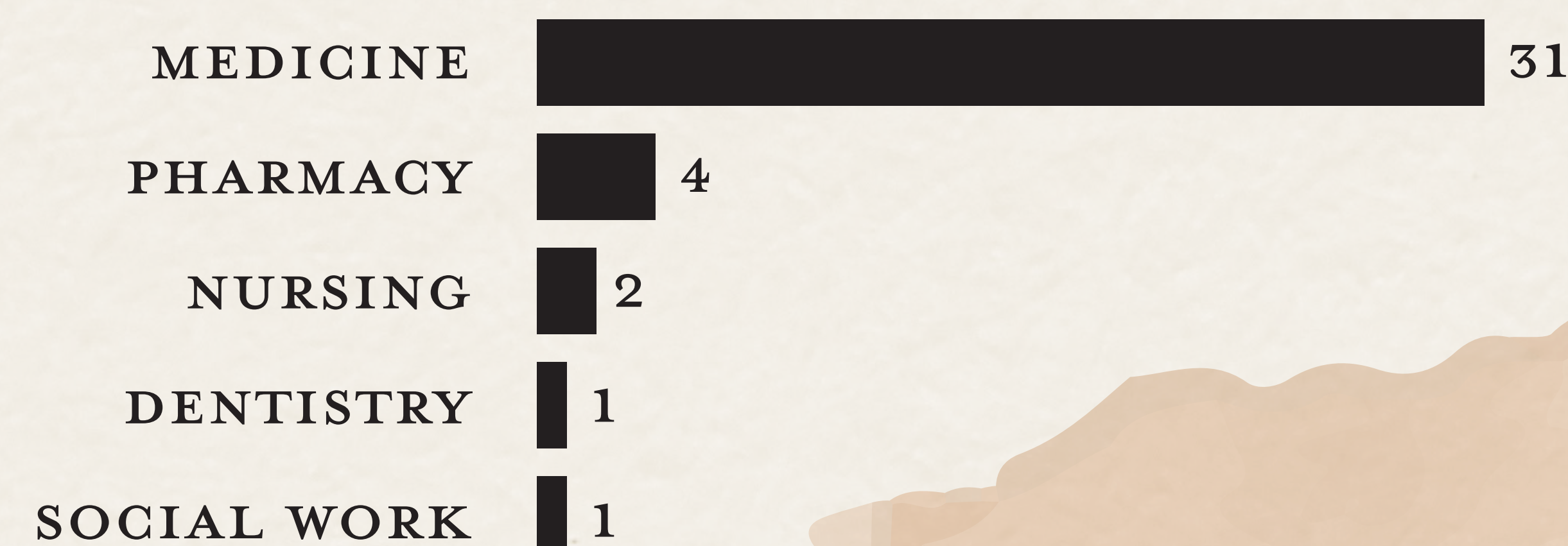
To increase the impact of limited resources, the task force decided to only fund:

- Early-career researchers, defined as students, postdocs, and faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor or lower.
- 50% of article processing charges up to a maximum of \$3000.

A strict definition of which OA journals were eligible was developed to avoid supporting publishing in predatory journals.

The Head, Collection Strategies and Management was designated to administer the pilot, and the Research and Education Librarians advertised the new program.

Awards by School



Awards by Status

