

# FAQs for Editors

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Thank you to our editors for their insights, comments and questions during the webinar.

Here we offer a summary of answers to the most frequently asked questions, which we hope you will find helpful and informative.

# System Requests

## Can we have access to AIRA?

AIRA, our [Artificial Intelligence Review Assistant](#), generated a lot of excitement. We are happy to announce that AIRA will be available to editors in the coming weeks. More details about this exciting technology that is going assist you to increase the ease, quality and efficiency of the review process will be released soon. We encourage you to keep an eye on our [news and announcement section](#), and our social media channels to learn more in the coming weeks.

## How do I make requests for system tools and changes?

Our platform uses a development pipeline that rolls-out new tools and improvements throughout the year. Several of the suggestions and requests we received last week have already been implemented or are currently in development. Feedback from the community about our platform is incredibly helpful, so please send suggestions for consideration to [platform.feedback@frontiersin.org](mailto:platform.feedback@frontiersin.org).

# Peer Review Information

Is it possible to grant deadline extensions to reviewers and authors?

We received several questions about extending deadlines for reviewers and authors during the COVID-19 pandemic and of course accommodate extensions. Please contact our [Editorial Office](#) to discuss your requirements. More information about this and our interactive peer-review process more broadly is [available online](#).

# New Research Topics

How do I launch a new Research Topic Theme?

We are always open to discuss new and exciting Research Topic themes in your area of expertise. [Research Topics](#) unite the world's leading experts around the hottest topics, stimulating collaboration and accelerating science. Please contact our [Editorial Office](#) or your Journal Manager to discuss your research idea.

# APC Waivers

## What is Frontiers' position on waivers and discounts for editors?

A common question was whether Frontiers could offer waivers and discounts to all editorial board members. Considering the invaluable task of peer-reviewing manuscripts, we wanted to do this and originally offered default blanket discounts on all publications and free first articles for all editors. However, after an in-depth analysis in 2018, we realized that while this an acknowledgement of the special role of editors, these blanket discounts and waivers were not the best use of the discount budget. They were automatically applied, even to researchers in well-funded research areas and with funding that provided for open access publishing fees. The successful uptake of open access by more and more funders across the world and the scale of [national and institutional agreements](#) means that more and more authors are covered to publish open access.

Now, we extend waivers and discounts to those authors who would benefit and need them most – in research fields or geographical areas with less funds available to cover open access fees. In 2019 for example, we waived more than USD 13.2 million in publishing fees on 11'880 articles. This allows us to work towards our bigger mission to make all of science open - in all academic disciplines, across the entire globe.

More information can be found on our [Fee Policy and Discount & Waiver Policy](#) page.

## Are COVID-19 articles waived?

Yes, we are waiving Article Processing Charges (APCs) for all manuscripts submitted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, until 31 July 2020.

# Journal Indexes

## Are Frontiers' journals part of industry-standard indexes?

We routinely index all our journals in Web of Science or Scopus, and all other industry-standard indexes as soon as the journals are eligible. However, some indexes require several years of publication record before the publisher can apply to be indexed. For example, Web of Science or Scopus require a minimum of two years' publishing record before a new journal can apply to be included. We ensure all journals are indexed as soon as they meet the necessary criteria.

# Data transparency

## What is Frontiers' position on data transparency?

We support and subscribe to the [TOP guidelines](#) for better, more transparent research. Some data types must be made available for peer review and publication, while others are encouraged to be shared. If you have any questions, please contact our [Data Policy team](#) who would be happy to provide further information.