

Dear Colleagues,

Since 2009, your organization has been consistently one of the top 20 users of arXiv, which continues to be a prominent and heavily-used open access repository. In order to maintain this level of access to scholarship and secure the future for arXiv we are asking for your help. We are writing to request your additional support as a Top 20 user of arXiv by contributing \$10,000 as your 2016 membership fee. This represents a platinum level of membership (compared to the \$3,000 for Tier 1 membership level). As a Top 20 user we feel that this greater financial contribution more accurately reflects the proportionate usage of arXiv's resources by your institution.

User feedback tells us that arXiv continues to be the most successful and prominent subject repository system serving the needs of scientists worldwide. However, the arXiv Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Member Advisory Board (MAB) are concerned that current funding levels will not support the technological, operational, and sustainability challenges that arXiv faces. The current funding model based on financial contributions from member libraries, a matching grant from the Simons Foundation, and in-kind support from the Cornell University Library is only adequate to meet arXiv's baseline maintenance with limited enhancements. It does not provide the funding necessary to take arXiv to the next level as a modern sustainable scholarly communications service for the growing scientific communities that use arXiv. The 2015 numbers, achieved on a budget of less than \$650,000 and 6.8 FTE, speak resoundingly for the success of arXiv:

- More than 1.1 million articles in arXiv;
- arXiv ranks #1 in [Ranking Web of Repositories](#);
- arXiv sections rank as five of the top ten publications in [Google Scholars Top Publications in Physics and Mathematics](#);
- 105,000 Submissions in 2015, a 8.25% increase from 2014; Membership Fees: 0% increase over the past 3 years.

The MAB is pursuing a number of initiatives but first would like to ask you, as one of the top 20 institutions using arXiv, to consider supporting arXiv with a contribution exceeding the current top 50 membership fee of \$3000. The number of downloads from the top 20 institutions corresponds to 22% of the total downloads, while the sum of the contributions corresponds to less than 10% of all member contributions. We have appended a chart to illustrate distribution among the top 200 heaviest users of arXiv. Please keep in mind that your current \$3000 contribution is roughly equivalent to:

- The subscription cost of one highly-ranked physics journal;
- One APC charge in a journal like *Nature Communications* (with an APC of \$5,200), *New Journal of Physics* (with an APC of \$2,080) or *Physical Review X* (with an APC of \$1,700).

As we move into planning the next phase for arXiv, the SAB and MAB are working hard with the Cornell team to build a framework to transform and create a sustainable technological and financial future for arXiv. The conclusion of the recent SAB and MAB annual meetings was that, in addition to the current business model with a focus on maintenance, the arXiv team needs to embark on a significant fund raising effort, pursuing grants and collaborations. Please see the initial [arXiv review strategy](#) to be refined and implemented during 2016. This is a one-time request to support the planning process and a decision on long term fee increases, based on a specific plan for the future of arXiv, will be developed during 2016. We would also welcome any further ideas that you have to increase the resource base for this vital repository. **If you will not be able to join as a platinum member, please respond as soon as possible so that the Cornell University Library staff can send you an invoice for \$3,000 instead of \$10,000 as requested with this letter.** We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to hearing from you.

[arXiv Member Advisory Board](#)

*Tommy Ohlsson, Professor, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Department of Theoretical Physics, Sweden*

*Carol Hoover, Digital Information Resources Manager, Los Alamos National Laboratory, US*

*Tracy Gabridge, Associate Director for Research & Instructional Services, MIT, US*

*Zhixiong Zhang, Assistant Director, National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China*

*Philip G. Kent, University Librarian, University of Melbourne, Australia*

*Molly White, Director, Math, Physics, Astronomy Library, University of Texas, Austin, US*

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*Eva Isaksson, Physics Librarian, University of Helsinki, Finland*

*Jim Mullins, Dean of Libraries at Purdue University, US*

*Martin Köhler, Head of Library and Documentation, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Germany*

*Lucie Burgess, Associate Director for Digital Libraries and Collection Management, University of Oxford, UK*

*Steve Mandeville-Gamble, University Librarian, University of California, Riverside, US*

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