



Quartz Open Access



the cooperative route to fair, sustainable and independent open access
academic publishing.

What is Quartz OA?

We are building a **platform cooperative** to

- **connect independent academic journals** and publishers with a supportive community of scholars and institutions
- make **independent OA publishing** more financially sustainable and fair.



Why?



- Independent OA publishers struggle to obtain institutional support
- Many dispersed initiatives -> difficulty to coordinate joint action to promote OA publishing



- Libraries find it difficult to support independent publishers
- Supporting many small journals -> increased administrative burden

How could we facilitate institutional support for independent OA initiatives and help coordinate joint action?

2 key components of Quartz OA

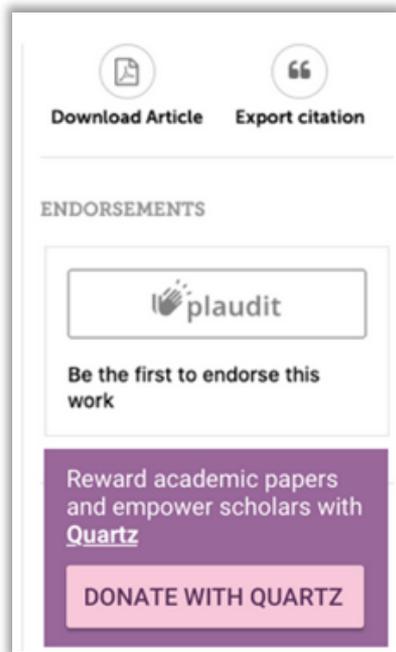


- **Distributed Governance: the platform cooperative model**
 - To allow the key actors of the OA publishing ecosystem to participate in the decision-making
 - Help prevent corporate buy-out
 - Distribute any platform profits among the community
- **Open Source technologies:**
 - (Micro)donations
 - Browser extension
 - Community initiatives and crowdfunding

OUR TOOLS

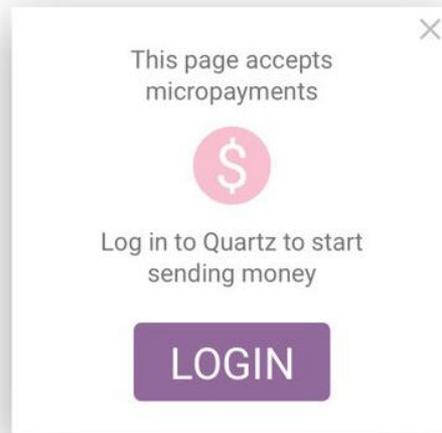
Micropayments plugin

- OJS extension available



Browser extension

- For Firefox and Chrome





The role of journals/publishers

Enable microdonations mechanism to support microdonations from scholars reading published articles



The role of libraries

Pledging funds to the whole community of Quartz OA partner journals

Inviting their affiliated researchers to install the browser extension and start distributing funds



The role of researchers

Automatically distributing microdonations while they visit a journal/article

2 potential sources of microdonations: own funds or institutional funds

What is next?

- **Establishing a non-profit foundation in Spain**
- **Applying for funding**
- **Finalising the browser extension & microdonations mechanism & pilot experiences – on hold until funding is obtained**



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