

APS Tier Definitions

APS continues its efforts to achieve a fair distribution of costs between major research active subscribers, small undergraduate institutions, and those in between. The APS was established in 1899 to “Promote and Diffuse the Knowledge of Physics”. The APS Council supports the philosophy that the cost of research activity should be distributed to reflect the way different institutions utilize the literature. In particular it should reflect both the value of the product to the reader (students, researchers, etc.) and the value of the journal as a distributor of research information (authors, institutions).

There are two points of view which both lead to increasing the fraction of journal revenue, which comes from the more research active institutions. One is from a business perspective. As cost pressures weigh on college budgets, small institutions may feel forced to drop their institutional subscriptions. This would be a significant loss, both for their students and for the larger community. In particular, the loss in revenue will have to be made up by the remaining institutions. By putting a constraint on the prices of the small colleges we hope to keep them as subscribers. This is economically a win-win situation. The second perspective is more fundamental. The future health of physics is heavily dependent on the educational activities of our small colleges because they foster both the graduate schools and the technical workforce. APS is committed to keeping the literature of physics accessible to all portions of our community.

- Tier 5 Very Large Research Institutions (Represents less than 1% of all subscribers)** - The methodology used to determine this tier is based on the size, nature, and scale of an institution's research activities, the degree to which an institution regards research as a fundamental aim, the size of the research budget in physical sciences, significant usage activity and significant publishing activities of the institution's researchers in APS's journals.

- Tier 4 Large Research Institutions (Represents approximately 5% of all subscribers)** - The methodology used to determine this tier is based on the size, nature, and scale of an institution's research activities, the degree to which an institution regards research as a fundamental aim, the size of the research budget in physical sciences, substantial usage activity and substantial publishing activities of the institution's researchers in APS's journals.

- Tier 3 Carnegie Research Extensive institutions** and their overseas equivalents, as well as government laboratories and corporations

- Tier 2 Carnegie Research Intensive institutions** and overseas equivalents

- Tier 1 Small Institutions and the remainder of the academic institutions** and their overseas equivalents