

Introduction of support fees for MReader "heavy users".

Heretofore , MReader has been free to all schools although some schools have voluntarily paid a "support fee." While we thank them for their continued support, it appears that the contributions had little correlation with actual usage and that many schools with higher usage appear to be able to pay a support fee if it were mandatory rather than voluntary. In order to stabilize support for the site and to provide income for maintenance and development, the ERF has decided to charge "heavy users" an annual support fee based on usage.

This policy will not take effect until 2023 in order to provide time for schools to include this fee as a budget item.

An analysis of MReader usage for the past three years reveals that only 20 schools out of more than 250 can be considered as "heavy users" in 2019, and only 15 in 2021, due to the effect of the pandemic.(See Tables X and X for usage patterns.)

Cost per school

As can be seen by the table below, there has been considerable fluctuation in usage due to the pandemic, with some schools abandoning MReader. It is not clear whether those schools will return to their 2019 usage levels or not, so we will ask each school to determine whether they wish to be assessed at the 2019 level or the 2021 level, or whether they wish to abandon MReader entirely. See Table 1 below for the threshold levels for the number of users and number of quizzes taken. The fee for each school will be the higher of the two categories.

Fee based on the higher level		Support Fee
Active Users	Quizzes Taken	
2500+	100000+	\$1,500
1500	50000	\$1,000
1000	25000	\$500
0	0	0
Up to 1000	Up to 25000	Free

Table 1

Exemptions

1. Schools in countries that are considered by the World Bank to be under-resourced "low-income regions" are exempt from payment although we would welcome support to any extent possible.
2. If a single teacher is using MReader without it being included in the published curriculum, the instructor may apply for an exemption. A statement, however, must be supplied from the department head to the effect that MReader use cannot be supported by the school.

The procedure

Each school listed in Table 2 will be asked for their option, 2019 level, 2021 level, or cease to use MReader.

An invoice will be issued within 10 days of the response. Schools that do not respond will be sent a reminder, and if there is no resolution by 31 December, usage of MReader will be discontinued.

For future years, schools will be contacted between April and June with a report of their usage in the previous year, which will provide the basis for the next year's license. This lag time between the usage assessment is inevitable since budgets must be set prior to the end of the current year. The amount will be reassessed annually and schools with a change in their usage will be contacted prior to the issuance of the invoice for the following year.

Mreader Usage Statistics for 2019					Mreader Usage Statistics for 2021				
SchoolPrefix	Country	Users	Quizzes	Support Fee	SchoolPrefix	Country	Users	Quizzes	Support Fee
ufs	ZA	7073	127281	--	ufs	ZA	5987	24875	--
fcufc	TW	4149	37449	\$1,500	SQU	OM	3551	32933	\$1,500
KIN	JP	3344	53357	\$1,500	untan	ID	3440	138241	--
jfou	JP	2787	80481	\$1,500	nan	JP	3299	48690	\$1,500
Tokai	JP	2645	29170	\$1,500	hoasen	VN	2984	18714	--
KUFS	JP	2391	136411	\$1,500	KIN	JP	2491	16720	\$1,000
KGU	JP	2018	27931	\$1,500	jfou	JP	2184	39857	\$1,500
nan	JP	2005	36856	\$1,500	du	JP	2062	20801	\$1,000
tcue	JP	1945	24531	\$1,000	rikkyo	JP	1371	7566	\$500
mgu	JP	1933	53321	\$1,000	BOUN	TR	1355	7018	\$500
SQU	OM	1830	20527	\$1,000	tosa	JP	1294	40865	\$500
NIT	JP	1559	15107	\$1,000	mec	OM	1259	7317	\$500
tamau	JP	1526	20309	\$1,000	NDSU	JP	886	25484	\$500
du	JP	1503	19189	\$1,000	tamau	JP	788	7780	\$500
hoasen	VN	1489	13519	--	ksu	JP	735	42435	\$500
kit	JP	1287	21242	\$500	kit	JP	601	10887	
NDSU	JP	1240	56722	\$500	sakuyo	JP	576	8273	
ksu	JP	1102	59248	\$1,000	matal	ID	538	11229	
untan	ID	963	27492	--	kng	JP	426	15412	
sakuyo	JP	936	27760	\$500	KGU	JP	381	4146	
TUS	JP	904	15548		Tokai	JP	367	3446	
tosa	JP	846	20708		cube	JP	350	9269	
rikkyo	JP	755	3138		NIT	JP	314	3660	
cube	JP	395	20814		FG	JP	239	3826	
SGU	JP				SHU	JP	231	10318	
SHU	JP				SGU	JP	195	727	
kng	JP				mgu	JP	154	1724	
FG	JP				TUS	JP	73	840	
BOUN	TR				fcufc	TW	4	4	
mec	OM				KUFS	JP			
matal	ID				tcue	JP			

MReader statistics for 2019	
Total number of schools	260
Total number of users	75876
Total number of quizzes	1460690

MReader statistics for 2021	
Total number of schools	166
Total number of users	53766
Total number of quizzes	745361

Table 2

The green background for three of the schools above indicates that they are exempt from a mandatory payment since they are located in under-resourced areas.