

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING


The basics of

Here are some quick notes to help you understand the basics of open access publishing.

OPEN ACCESS
free 
online 
unrestricted 
access to published research

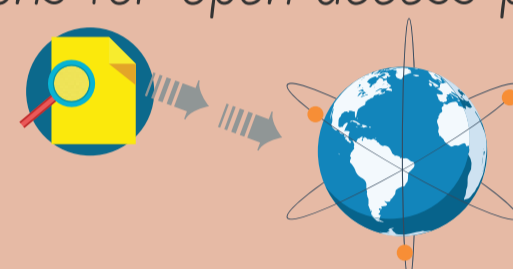
What's the difference?

Conventional publishing

- Articles are published in subscription-based journals.
- Only those with subscriptions can view published papers. 
- No library has subscriptions to all journals.
- This limits the outreach of research, especially to the general public.
- A researcher's work may not be visible to the world.

Open access publishing

- Articles are published in open access journals.
OR
They are deposited in open access repositories.
- There are no subscription paywalls.
- Research is freely available online.
- This increases the number of citations for open access papers.



Open access routes

GREEN OPEN ACCESS

Depositing research articles in an open access repository



Also called "self-archiving"

Could be an institutional repository

Repository may accept audio files, video recordings, raw data, published papers, etc.

GOLD OPEN ACCESS

Publishing in an open access journal



Peer reviewed version of articles is immediately available online free of cost to everybody around the world

Readers can copy, share, or distribute

Things to remember

about open access publishing

- OPEN ACCESS IS NOT FREE**
Journals charge authors with publication fees, or article processing charges (APCs). Check the APC of your target journal.
- APCs ARE NOT ALWAYS BORNE BY AUTHORS**
Most funders/institutions bear the APC for open access publishing.
- AUTHORS CAN RETAIN COPYRIGHT**
Different licenses allow users to use your content in different ways. Use one of the Creative Commons licences.
- ATTRIBUTION IS ESSENTIAL**
Ensure that the license you choose needs readers/users of your work to attribute you for it.
- CHOOSE THE RIGHT REPOSITORY**
Repositories can be subject-specific. Make sure the repository you choose includes your subject area.
- CHECK IF THERE IS AN EMBARGO PERIOD**
Some publishers and repositories impose an embargo period after which you can make your paper open access. This could be 3 to 6 months or more. Make sure you check this.
- NEED HELP? ASK YOUR LIBRARIAN!**
Librarians are the best people to consult if you have any doubts about choosing the right open access route for your research.

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