Open Access Journal Publishing

1. What is it?

Open Access (OA) is about making scholarly publications freely available to everyone. We live in a world where we can access information immediately – from breaking news, to celebrity gossip, to grumpy cats.

Doesn't it make sense that scholarly works are freely available too?



Open Access is not only about making scholarly works "free" in the monetary sense, but free in all sorts of ways:

Free to access
Free to use and re-use
Free to modify

2. What's in it for me?

In our connected world, the people who most want to read your work, and who you most want to read it, are other researchers – and every time they hit a pay-wall they are much less likely to read it. One analysis found that:

Open Access papers are 2-3 times more likely to be read than non-OA papers.

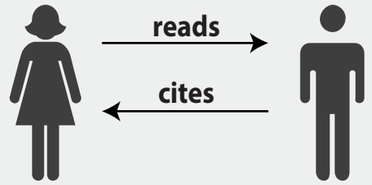
http://www.nature.com/press_releases/ncomms-report2014.pdf

Read this report by Nature publishing group

More academic citations

The more your paper is read, the more likely it is to be cited. SPARC – an influential Open Access group – has been tracking the association between Open Access and citations for many years. In 2016, SPARC Europe found that **of the 70 studies** analysed thus far, **46 show a citation advantage for OA papers**.

And every time your paper is cited, it helps build your **reputation**, and your **H-index** will go up (which is good for your career).



SPARC

SPARC Europe, "The Open Access Citation Advantage"
http://sparceurope.org/oaca/

More Wikipedia citations

The citation advantage is true in Wikipedia as well. Wikipedia is the first result that comes up when almost any scholarly term is put into Google.

In Wikipedia, Open Access articles are 47% more likely to be cited than non-open access articles.

(And that's after comparing articles of similar quality.)

Teplitskiy, M., Lu, G., Duede, E. "Amplifying the Impact of Open Access: Wikipedia and the Diffusion of Science" (http://arxiv.org/abs/1506.07608)

3. What's in it for everyone?

Promotes equality

"The pursuit of research is to increase global knowledge. Disseminating work through Open Access channels means that researchers in less resourced institutions, practitioners in the field, and the general public can share findings."

"The world is facing significant challenges that will only be met through the collaboration and sharing of research findings internationally. Open Access accelerates the pace of discovery and the translation of research into benefits for the public by sharing results with other researchers in a timely manner who can build on it and practitioners who can apply the new knowledge."

International symbol for Open Access

Accelerates research

Makes economic sense?

"One question about Open Access is whether it is more cost effective than the current subscription system. There have been some substantial studies looking at the economic impact of a move to Open Access." This topic is under consideration by many global groups.

See: http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january13/houghton/01houghton.html

Good for taxpayers

"The taxpayer supports the research, the writing up of results, and the peer review and editing process. Open Access allows these taxpayers to see these findings without having to pay to view."

All quotations in this section are from the **Australasian Open Access Strategy Group**
https://aoasg.org.au/why-open-access/

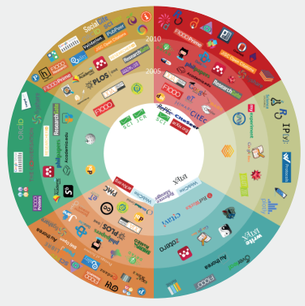
4. Different methods

When the journal makes the published version of the article open access (OA), it is known as **Gold OA**. Some journals charge for Gold OA. Grants are sometimes used to pay the article processing charge (APC) and some institutions have set up an APC fund. Gold OA articles are generally published under the most liberal CC Licence (CC-BY) and authors retain copyright of their work.

When the author makes the accepted manuscript version of the article open access (OA) by uploading it to an institutional (or discipline) repository it is known as **Green OA**. Sometimes an embargo period of 12 months (or longer) is required before the full-text is made freely available but an institutional repository will generally manage this. Green OA articles can be read, saved and shared non-commercially but, as the publisher generally owns the copyright, permission (and usually payment) is required for commercial reuse and derivative works.

5. Openness and innovation

Openness underpins most of the innovation that's going on in scholarly publishing right now. A site called **101 Innovations in Scholarly Publications** is tracking this.



Openness is at the leading edge of publishing.

Explore all the innovations. There's now more than 500.

https://innoscholcomm.silk.co/

6. Myth busting

"But isn't OA poor quality?" ***No.***

OA refers to the conditions that surround how that work can be read and reused. You still have to read the article to determine its quality – and relevance to you – exactly as you have to do for subscription publishing. Think carefully about where you submit. ThinkCheckSubmit can help you do that.

http://thinkchecksubmit.org



"But don't I have to pay for open access myself?" ***No.***

Your institution or funding body may have a publication fund for this purpose, so you won't be out of pocket.

Even better, many good OA journals are free.

Have a look at the Directory of Open Access Journals which has a carefully curated list of good OA journals. (http://doaj.org/)

DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS



Valiant open access myth buster

"But won't I lose control over my work?" ***No.***

You'll gain control of the rights that in the past were taken from you by publishers!

Unlike traditional non-OA publications, you retain your copyright.

Creative Commons licence

"Won't it stop me choosing where I want to publish?" ***No.***



You have options!

If your chosen journal doesn't have an immediate Open Access option, you can still make it freely available via your institutional repository and then it will be available and searchable via that.

7. Find out more!

If you want to find out more about Open Access, your library is a great place to start. Librarians are informed professionals, and active proponents of Open Access.

Some great resources:

Australasian Open Access Strategy Group	https://aoasg.org.au/
SPARC	http://sparcopen.org/
ThinkCheckSubmit	http://thinkchecksubmit.org/
Directory of Open Access Journals	https://doaj.org/
xkcd comic	science.sciencemag.org/content/342/6154/58.full

This resource was written and designed by
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