

LEARNING AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Skills for Researchers - Open Access

What is Open Access?

Open access publishing is a means to make research results (peer-reviewed journal articles, conference papers, theses) freely available to the reader on the internet.

Why is Open Access publishing important?

Research Assessment Exercises – HEFCE are currently consulting on whether to mandate Open Access availability via institutional repositories wherever possible for research outputs for the 2020 REF.

Increased Impact – Making your work accessible in open access sources will make your work more accessible to other researchers so will increase the likelihood that your work will be cited (Swan, 2010).

Funder Requirements – Funding bodies, such as the Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Wellcome Trust have moved towards the requirement that the research they fund must be made available on open access publishing routes. The EU Commission has also announced new policies both for open access to publications and for access to data arising from research funded under Horizon 2020, which will come into effect in 2014. The Sherpa/Juliet website provides a summary of all the major funder policies plus links to their open access and data policies.

Ethical Practice - The Finch Report commissioned by the Government discusses approaches to improve open access to publically funded research and scholarly publications.

What are the Open Access Publishing Routes?



Open Access journals (**Gold OA route**) undergo the same peer-review system as traditional journals but such journals are funded at the beginning of the publishing process by charging the author (or the author's funder) a fee for publication, referred to as the Article Processing Charge (APC). Examples of exclusively OA publishers are **BioMed Central** and the **Public Library of Science**. A Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is being maintained by the University of Lund.

An alternative open access route is to publish work in an appropriate journal and then make your work available in a repository (self-archive), the **Green OA route**. Repositories can be discipline specific or institutional. WIRE is the University of Wolverhampton's institutional repository. The **OpenDOAR** directory allows you to search open access repositories worldwide.

In many cases you will be allowed to publish in a journal and then self-archive a version of the article in a repository. Journal publishers specify which version of an article an author can submit to a repository. Article versions include:

- **Pre-print:** This is the original draft, prior to publisher's corrections. Pre-print versions do not normally meet funder requirements.
- **Post-print:** This is the corrected version of the draft, but not the final published version. Also known as the Author's Manuscript or Accepted Author Manuscript.
- **Publisher's version** or published journal article or version of record: This is the final published article.

The Sherpa/Romeo website provides a summary of the policies adopted by the major publishers which authors can check before submitting to a repository. Publishers may also place restrictions such as embargo periods, so an article submitted to a repository can only be made available once the embargo period has lapsed.

Reference:

Swan, A. (2010) *The open access citation advantage: Studies and results to date* [online]. Southampton: University of Southampton. Available at: <
http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/268516/6/Citation_advantage_paper.doc >

Useful Links:

Sherpa/Romeo: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php?la=en&fidnum=|&mode=simple>

The OpenDOAR directory: <http://www.opendoar.org/index.html>

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): <http://www.doaj.org/>

WIRE: <http://wlv.openrepository.com/wlv/> - (University of Wolverhampton's repository)

The Finch Report: <http://www.researchinfonet.org/publish/finch/>

HEFEC Consultation: <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/newsarchive/2013/name,82784,en.html>

Open Access and Impact

[Comparing the Impact of Open Access \(OA\) vs. Non-OA Articles in the Same Journals](#)

[Open Access: Impact for Researchers, Universities and Society](#)

Funder Requirements:

RCUK and Open Access: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/outputs.aspx>

Sherpa/Juliet, provides a summary of all the major funder policies plus links to their open access and data policies: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php>

Help and Advice: For help and advice on any aspect of Open Access, please see the LIS Researcher section at: <http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/academics/research.aspx>