

## Open Access Research Literature

### What is Open Access?

There are a number of definitions of what constitutes open access. In general it refers to online journal articles, conference papers, books, theses and other research materials that are made available for readers to view for free. Also, in most cases, there are no licensing restrictions so that readers may freely use open access items for teaching, research, etc..

Author retention of copyright, or not, need be no different for an open access publication as it is for a non-open access publication - it will depend on the publisher and author negotiations.

What open access research literature is not is self-publishing or a way to avoid peer-review, as many Open Access publishers undertake the peer-review process.

### How is Open Access Provided?

#### 1. OA Journals

Directory of Open Access Journals - <http://www.doaj.org/>

#### 2. OA Repositories

These are databases of OA material and are usually subject or institution based. Examples being our own Pharmacy Eprints (<http://eprints.pharmacy.ac.uk/>) which is part of the SHERPA Consortium (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>), PubMed Central (<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/index.html>) and UK PubMed Central (<http://ukpmc.ac.uk/>). You can find a list of repositories at <http://www.openoar.org/>

If you place your research into an OA Repository it is known as self-archiving. Many publishers, including traditional publishers, now allow some form of self-archiving, although they may enforce a delay between publication and self-archiving and/or only allow a post-print to be deposited. **For information on individual publishers' policies on self-archiving see the RoMEO database at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>.** Please also see the section below entitled "Open Access Journals". It is worth noting that approximately 90% of journals allow post-print archiving.

OA Repositories do not aim to replace journals, as they usually will only collect items already published elsewhere.

#### 3. Personal or Departmental Website

All the three above will improve the visibility of research, but the first two do provide a more organised approach and increase the chance of other researchers finding your work as they use certain protocols and standards so that information can be harvested by search engines such as Google and Google Scholar.

## **Open Access Journals**

There are three main models:

### **1. True OA Journals**

All published articles are made immediately available for the readers to view for free. Examples of publishers that provide these journals, and use peer-review, are BioMed Central (<http://www.biomedcentral.com/home/>) and the Public Library of Science (<http://www.plos.org/>). Most of the publishers of these journals use the author pays model, so the author (or though it can also be the author's institution or funder) pays the journal to publish the article.

An increasing number of these journals are being indexed by ISI Thomson and are receiving their Impact Factors. You can find these impact factors by accessing the ISI Web of Knowledge service at <http://wok.mimas.ac.uk/> and then selecting Journal Citation Reports.

### **2. Hybrid Immediate OA Journals**

These are traditional journals where normally a reader would need a subscription to view the published article however, for a fee paid by the author (or again their institution or funder) the publisher will make an article free to the reader. Examples of publishers who have introduced this model for some of their titles include OUP, Blackwell, Elsevier, Springer, CUP, BMJPG, PNAS, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry, Company of Biologists.

### **3. Hybrid Delayed OA Journals**

Here publishers allow a copy of the final, peer-reviewed manuscript to be made available online for free, usually after a delay of say six months, but that delay does vary.

Use the RoMEO database at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php> to see the model used by different journal titles.

## **How Much Are the Author Pay Costs?**

These depend on the publisher and the journal title. The costs vary greatly, for example the article processing charges for BioMed Central titles range from zero per article to £1,200.

Include an estimate of fees in your grant applications, if possible.

## **Open Access and Funders**

A number of major funding bodies, including Cancer Research UK, the Department of Health / National Institute for Health Research, the Wellcome Trust, the BBSRC, ESRC, MRC and the NERC, have all announced that research papers created as a result of their funding must be placed in an Open Access Repository within a set time from publication.

Cancer Research UK, the Department of Health / NIHR, the Wellcome and the MRC , amongst others, have said the Open Access Repository UK PubMed Central (<http://ukpmc.ac.uk/>) must be used. To do this you must publish in a journal with an open access option??? that also archives articles in UKPMC *or* you must obtain permission from the publisher to self-archive your final peer-reviewed manuscript (if not the final published version) in UKPMC.

Cancer Research UK and the Wellcome Trust have applied this to all current grants, not just to new awards. It applies to all papers created as a result of Wellcome research submitted for publication after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 and for CR-UK after 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007. It applies for all publications as a result of Department of Health grants applied for from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

Cancer Research UK and the Department of Health at present (November 2007) do allow researchers to publish in non-compliant journals under exceptional circumstances if application is made to the funder in advance of submitting a manuscript – see their web sites, listed below, for more information.

For information on specific funders and how to comply with their policies:

Arthritis Research Campaign

<http://www.arc-research.org.uk/applicants/openaccess.asp>

British Heart Foundation

[http://www.bhf.org.uk/research\\_health\\_professionals/apply\\_for\\_research\\_grants/open\\_access\\_policy.aspx](http://www.bhf.org.uk/research_health_professionals/apply_for_research_grants/open_access_policy.aspx)

Cancer Research UK

[http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/openaccess\\_ukpmc/?version=1](http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/openaccess_ukpmc/?version=1)

Department of Health / National Institute for Health Research

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk/files/pdfs/OpenAccessPolicyStatement.pdf>

RCUK

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/outputs/access/default.htm>

BBSRC

[http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/articles/28\\_june\\_research\\_access.html](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/articles/28_june_research_access.html)

ESRC

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Support/access/>

MRC

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/PolicyGuidance/EthicsAndGovernance/OpenAccessPublishingandArchiving/MRCGuideforResearchersonOpenAccessPublishing/MRC002548>

NERC

<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/about/access/>

Science & Technology Facilities Council

<http://www.so.stfc.ac.uk/rgh/rghDisplay2.aspx?m=s&s=64>

Wellcome

[http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc\\_WTD002766.html](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_WTD002766.html)

Wellcome Trust Special Edition of Grantholders E-Newsletter on OA  
[http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc\\_WTX041717.html](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_WTX041717.html)

Other Funders: Try the SHERPA JULIET database at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>

### Steps to Follow If You Need to Deposit Your Articles into UK PubMed Central

- **Your journal may have an agreement to automatically deposit, on your behalf, into UK PubMed Central.**

If it doesn't, use the RoMEO database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>) to see if the journal is Wellcome, CR-UK, etc. compliant and to check what version of manuscript may be deposited when.

If compliant you will then need to submit your publication to UK PubMed Central via the UK Manuscript Submission System at <https://ukmss.mimas.ac.uk> within the time frame required by your funder.

- **What should I do if RoMEO does not list my journal or says “no” to open access?**

Contact the editorial board to see if they will in fact allow you to submit to UK PubMed Central within the time period required by your funder. If they do please let the School of Pharmacy Library ([library@pharmacy.ac.uk](mailto:library@pharmacy.ac.uk)) know so we can alert SHERPA to update RoMEO. If “no” then contact your funder, in advance of submitting a manuscript, to see if they will allow you to publish with this title.

*Remember that to publish in an open access journal may incur author publication charges.*

The following flow charts will help for the relevant funders:

- **Cancer Research UK**  
[http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/openaccess\\_ukpmc/ukpmc\\_toolkit?version=1](http://science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/openaccess_ukpmc/ukpmc_toolkit?version=1)
- **Wellcome**  
<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/assets/wtx033844.pdf>

### Advantages of Open Access

1. Improved dissemination of research.
2. Enhanced citation rates.  
A bibliography of studies: <http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html>.
3. Avoids delays in publishing.

### **Advantages of Open Access Repositories**

1. Research stored in a central place.
2. Consortia repositories are more likely to be able to keep up-to-date with digital preservation techniques.
3. Potential for long-term storage.
4. Potential to harvest information for other uses, for example RAEs.

### **Critics of Open Access**

Critics argue that open access will:

1. Disadvantage researchers with less financial resources.
2. Lead to a reduction in quality, as publishers will not be so discerning in what they publish if a journal's main source of income is author fees.
3. Cause large well funded publishers to squeeze out smaller publishing houses and lead to a loss of heritage research. It is possible whole electronic archives of research publications could be lost, which is far less likely to happen with print.
4. Cause a drop in membership, and thus in essential revenue, for scholarly societies, as members no longer need to join to access a society's publications.

So, there are issues and we are in a period of flux however, there are various projects underway to examine the long-term financial sustainability of OA journals and the mandatory deposit of electronic materials for archiving, as happens now with print.

### **Further Information**

Funding Agencies that explicitly allow the use of their grants to pay author fees for open access journals

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/apcfaq#grants18>

Scientific Publications: Free for All?

A report of the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee 2003-2004

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmsctech/1200/120002.htm>

JISC Briefing Paper on Open Access

[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/pub\\_openaccess\\_v2.aspx](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/publications/pub_openaccess_v2.aspx)

SHERPA – Organisation that investigates issues in the future of scholarly communication

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>

SPARC – The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition in support of open access

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/>

SPARC Europe

<http://www.sparceurope.org/>

Wellcome Trust – General Information on Open Access

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/node3302.html>

Please contact Michelle Wake, Chief Librarian & Head of Library and Information Services ([michelle.wake@pharmacy.ac.uk](mailto:michelle.wake@pharmacy.ac.uk) or 020 7753 5833) if you require any additional information.

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