

Open Access Publications: An Integrated Platform for Scholarly Communication

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Abstracts

*Open Access (OA) is freely available to users on the Internet without any subscription charges and the authors and copyright holders grant to all users. OA is available online, digital, cost free and almost copyright and license free, so it may be called as **barrier-free-access**. The goal of open access is to improve the traditional scholarly publishing system and making research more accessible. Research data, peer-reviewed articles, dissertation/thesis, un-refereed preprints, conference, presentations, scholarly monographs textbooks novels, stories, digitized print works could be under open access publication. OA means neither to bypass peer review nor to violate copyright. Publication of a scholarly article through OA publication is broadly three types i.e. Gold OA, Green OA and Hybrid journals. Researchers, scholars and scientists main business is scholarly communication. The Research and Scholarly Environment Committee of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) have designed the Scholarly Communication Toolkit. Scholarly communication is often defined or portrayed as a life cycle documenting the steps involved in the creation, publication, dissemination and search of a piece of creativity. Almost libraries, academics, research organizations and publishers have begun to support or adjust themselves for the new environment for scholarly communication, including open access, institutional repositories, and preprint.*

WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS?

Open Access (OA) is freely available to users on the Internet and do not have subscription charges. OA is gratis (cost free), unrestricted, online access to a scholarly publication. It can be called as **barrier-free-access**. The authors and copyright holders provide all users with a free, irrevocable, worldwide, unlimited access to access, and license, use, distribute and distribute public works in any digital medium. Provide a license to broadcast and display. The right to make small numbers of printed copies for any responsible purpose, subject to the proper merit of authorship, as well as their personal use. The goal of open access is to improve the traditional scholar publishing system by making research more accessible. OA may be in form of Journals, Databases, Archives, and Institutional Repositories etc.

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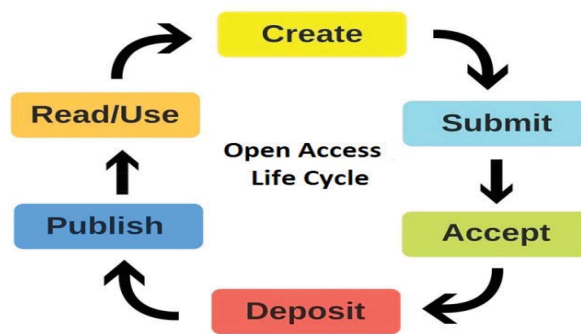


Fig. 1: Open Access Life Cycle)

DEFINITION OF OA

Peter Suber (2012) defines, “Open Access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. What make it possible is the internet and the consent of the author or copy right-holder.”

What are under Open Access?

- “Peer-reviewed research articles”
- “Un-refereed preprints destined to be peer-reviewed research articles”
- “Theses and Dissertations”
- “Research data”
- “Government data source code conference presentations (texts, slides, audio, video)”
- “Scholarly monographs textbooks novels, stories, plays, and poetry newspapers”
- “Archival records and manuscripts images (artworks, photographs, diagrams, maps)”
- “ Teaching and learning materials (open education resources and open courseware)”
- “Digitized print works (some in the public domain, some still under copyright)”

What Open Access is Not?

- “To bypass peer review”
- “To reform, violate copyright.
- “To deprive royalty-earning authors of income”
- “To deny the reality of costs”
- “To reduce author’s rights over their works”
- “To reduce academic freedom”

Types of Open Access (OA) Publications

OA is increasing through two routes: full OA journals (gold) and open archiving of self-manuscripts (green). Major commercial and social publishers are rapidly moving forward in the APC-funded OA market. The spread of large national or federal level e-licenses that bundle subscriptions and APCs for hybrid OA can cause large scale flipping of magazines to OA.

- **Gold OA** - The Publications of scholarly articles in an open access journal, usually peer-reviewed, and finance through article publication charges (APC) or through advertising, donations or other subsidies. This means that publishing in such a way that provides instant access to all electronically and free of charge is known as Gold Open Access.
- **Green OA**- Archiving of scholarly publications for public access in an Institutional Repository other than that publisher is known as Green Open Access. Access to the research output can be granted either immediately or after an agreed embargo period.
- **Hybrid Journal**- A few articles of a journal are available on open access, however rest part contents of the same journal are available on subscription-based.

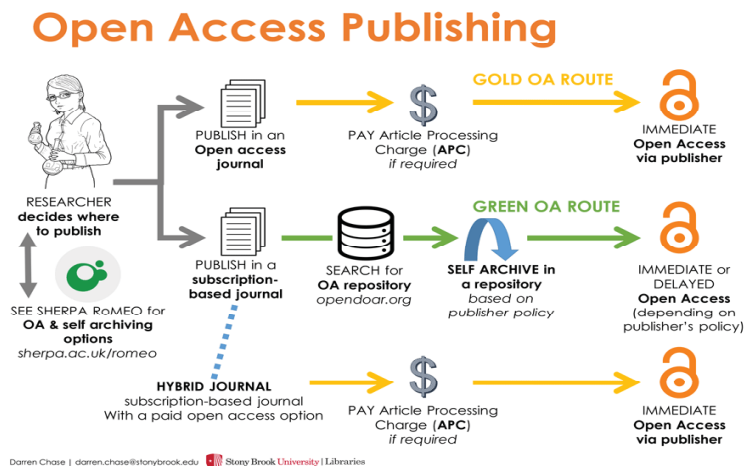


Fig. 2: Types of open Access Publishing)

ADVANTAGES OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION

Most people can access and build the latest research, the more valuable the research is done and the more likely it is that people can take advantage of it. Here are some benefits of open access publications are listed below:

- **Increased Visibility:** Always open access articles are more visibility than the subscription articles, because OA articles are visible to anyone to

access and read academic work without paying for subscriptions or fees on a publisher's website.

- **Increased Citation Rates:** As the OA articles are most visibility, its citation rate also be higher than the subscription articles. It benefited to the authors as well as the publishers also to rated their citation higher to higher.
- **Drives Innovation:** All Scholars cannot able to access the subscription base articles, they are using the open access i.e. Google scholars and have new innovations in science and technologies.
- **Global Impact:** Open access impacts worldwide i.e. Wikipedia which is available in almost regional languages.
- **Public Access:** OA reaches everywhere of the world without any cost which is accessible by everyone any time. It is a public access domain.
- **Company with Funder Policy:** OA developments the policies in institutions, in funding agencies, in licensing, and in the development of repositories.

DISADVANTAGES OF OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION

Normally paid things are most valuable than the free things. The users take benefits of the access freely and they always thought that the subscribed publications may be much better than the OA journals. But it may not be justified because a genuine scholar knows what is good and what is better. From the authors view, they usually pay APC for publishing their research in OA journals where in case oa subscribed journals the APC are not mandatory for the authors because the publishers get their fees from the subscribers.

Secondly, copyrights for the published content are usually transferred to the journal from the authors in subscribed publishing model where in OA Publishing model authors generally retain copyright. This means that publication in a subscribed publisher, anybody who wishes to use any part of the content will have to seek permission from the authors. On the other hand, OA Publishers often use creative commons licenses to make it easier for users to use, share and build upon the original work.

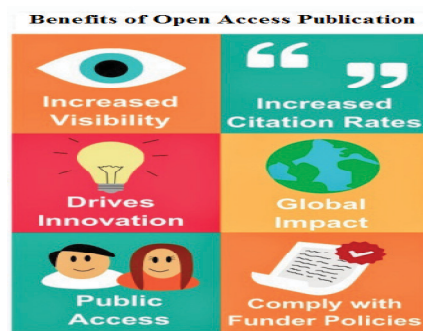


Fig. 3: Benefits of Open Access Publication)

WHAT IS SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION?

The scholarly communication is the process of sharing, disseminating, broadcasting and publishing research findings of researchers, scholars and academics which generated academic contents and provided to the global academic communities. Researchers, scholars and Scientists main business is scholarly communication. The Research and Scholarly Environment Committee of ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries) have designed the Scholarly Communication Toolkit to support advocacy efforts designed to transform the scholarly communication landscape.

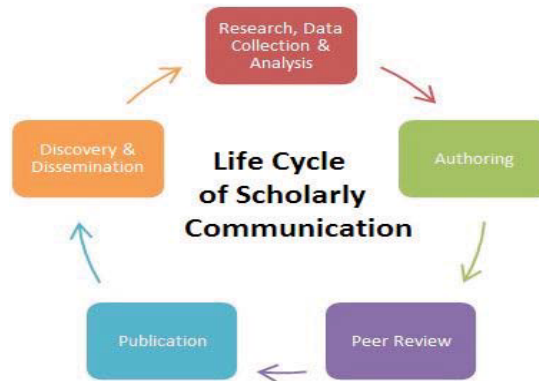


Fig. 4: Life Cycle of Scholarly Communication

DEFINITION OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION

According to ACRL (2003), Scholarly Communication is defined as “the system through which research and other scholarly writings are created, evaluated for quality, disseminated to the scholarly community, and preserved for future use. The system includes both formal means of communication, such as publication in peer-reviewed journals, and informal channels, such as electronic listservs.”

Scholarly Communication is often defined or portrayed as a life cycle documenting the steps involved in the creation, publication, dissemination and search of a piece of creativity. The system of Scholarly Communication (through which research is produced, reviewed for quality, published, disseminated, and made available to scholars over time) is coming under increasing stresses. Libraries and librarians are playing a critical role in the integration, evaluation and dissemination of scholar communication.

The Channels of Scholarly Communications

- “Academic Journals”
- “Conference Proceedings”
- “Research Monographs”

- “Research Reports”
- “Working Papers”
- “Theses and Dissertation”
- “Patents/ Standards”

Needs of Open Access for Scholarly Communication:

All these open access publishers mainly focus on the journal and the research article. It has been one of the earliest and most intensely explored areas of Scholarly Communication but the most exciting current development is the step to a broader perspective. It is important that the dissertation and monograph should also be open and the new model is being explored. Apart from this, work is being done to ensure workflow, code, software, video and other components in a research project, all can be made accessible. If the scholars will share their research experience on an open access platform, it will be easy to spread throughout the whole world’s scholar communities and researchers. However the subscription-based access spreads in a limited area, the open access spread on unlimited areas and which will be helpful for making a scholarly community. Through a scholarly community the scholars share their research findings, problems and experiments each other and execute the scholarly communication process.

According to *Michael Eisen* “We are reaching the stage where you can say there is a movement within the scientific community and the broader academic community to ensure that the open access way of making the product of scholarly communication available is the way of the future”. *Sian Harris* Said “Open access is clearly here to stay and it is encouraging to see the principles of openness making a difference to research communication worldwide. It is still a complex picture and we see that many researchers are still unclear about aspects of it”.

CONCLUSION

Almost Libraries, Academics, Research Organizations and Publishers have started supporting or adjusting themselves to a new environment for scholarly communication through open access, Institutional Repositories, and preprints. With the thought of an agitation, initial visionary and subsequent arrival, it is a big tent, including Librarians, Scientists, Sociologists, University Press, and commercial publishers. In the construction of this large tent, the definition of success is somewhat confused in the mind of every person or organization, but definitely for some. It has been observed that Open access publications lead the main role in scholarly communications system, so a statement may be given as “Open Access publication is an integrated platform for scholarly communication”.

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