



Description

In recent times, open access publishing has been gaining popularity in the scholarly community from funders, research organizations, universities, publishers, and researchers due to it making research accessible to all. So what exactly is Open Access Publishing and how is it different from the traditional form of [academic publishing](#)? Through this infographic, we give you an understanding of the essential aspects of open access publishing and the manner in which it helps the scholarly research community.



TRADITIONAL vs. OPEN ACCESS

Traditional Publishing Model

1. Researcher conducts research and writes article
2. Article is submitted and accepted by journal
3. Peer review takes place and revisions are suggested
4. Author revises paper and re-submits.
5. Article published in journal
6. Paid subscribers of the journal can view the published article

Open Access Publishing Model

1. Researcher conducts research and writes article
2. Article is submitted and accepted by journal
3. Peer review takes place and revisions are suggested
4. Author revises paper and re-submits.
5. Author shares paper as preprint/postprint
6. Article published in journal
7. Article accessible online to everyone for free

Open Access Practices

Green Open Access

- Allows an author to post a version of the paper in an institutional or subject repository (self-archival).
- This is not the final version which is accepted and published by the journal.
- It may be in pre-print form (paper before peer review) or post-print form (paper after peer review) or even the publisher's version of the paper after a defined embargo period. No APC involved.



Gold Open Access

- The author pays the journal a publication fee for making the article open access immediately upon publishing. This publication fee is also called as "Article Processing Charges (APC)."

Hybrid Open Access

- This is a mixed revenue model which includes subscription charges and publications fees.
- Some articles can be published as open access upon payment of APC by the author.
- Remaining articles are available only to paid subscribers of the journal.



Black Open Access

- This is a new form of open access that has emerged in recent years.
- Scholarly articles especially those behind paywalls are obtained illegally from academic social networks and pirate sites.
- Sharing of these articles do not adhere to journal copyright and sharing guidelines.
- This type of OA is also called as "Guerilla Open Access*".



* This term is taken from the book "Guerilla Open Access Manifesto" by Aaron Swartz

Benefits of Open Access



Wider Access

Authors can address a wider audience without the reader having to pay a fee thereby increasing the reach of the articles.



Increased Citations & Impact

OA articles have a bigger impact and are cited more often when compared to subscription-only articles.



Increased Visibility

Readers become aware of authors who publish in open access journals and institutions can host open access repositories to increase visibility.



Drives Research Innovation

Immediate access to research results inspire other researchers to innovate. This improves interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research endeavors.



Faster Availability & Searchability

Research results are available immediately to everyone once published. Also, open access articles are typically more easier to locate.



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daveishan