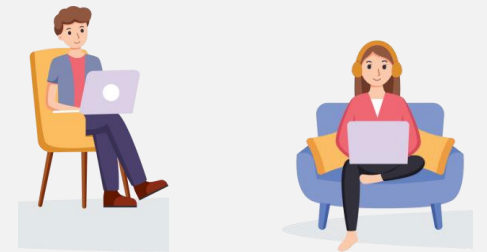


What is Open Access and why is it important?

Monday 20th October 2025



GWASANAETH LLYFRGELL
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Outline



- What do we mean by "Open Access"?
- Open Access Journals, Hybrid Journals, Open Access Books
- Open Access Publication Routes (Gold, Diamond and Green)
- Why publish your work Open Access?
- Open Access vs Free Access
- How to Copyright Your Work

What do we mean by "Open Access"?



- Open Access (OA) is a publishing model that makes research outputs available online at no cost to the reader.
- Open Access movement
 - E.g. cOAlition S, Budapest Open Access Initiative, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Europe
- Over 49% of global research outputs in 2020 were freely available in some form, compared to approx. 27% in 2011
 - Neylon & Huang (2022) in Huang et al. (2024)



Fully Open Access Journals / Open Access Books	Hybrid Journals
Free to read, no subscription fees	Subscription-based journals that offer authors the option to pay an APC to make individual articles Open Access
Article Processing Charge (APC)/ Book Processing Charge (BPC) for the author Exception: Diamond Open Access	Risk of “double dipping” (article paid for twice: journal subscription and APC)

Choosing where to publish webinar Weds 22nd Oct 10:30

Open Access Publication Routes

Gold

- Open Access journals and books, Hybrid journals
- Publisher version
- No embargo
- Article/Book processing charges (APCs/BPCs)

Diamond

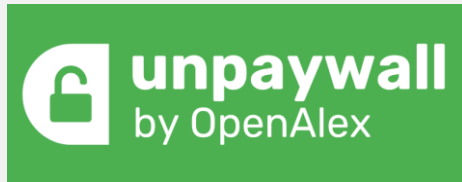
- Diamond Open Access journals (search [DOAJ](#)) and book publishers (search [OpenBook Collective](#))
- Publisher version
- No embargo
- No APCs/BPCs for authors

Green

- Self-archiving in repositories
- Accepted manuscript (post-peer review)
- May be an embargo
- No charge for authors

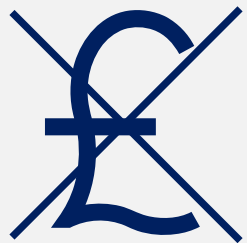
Open Policy Finder can be used to check publisher copyright and open access policies on a journal-by-journal basis <https://openpolicyfinder.jisc.ac.uk/>

Why publish your work Open Access?



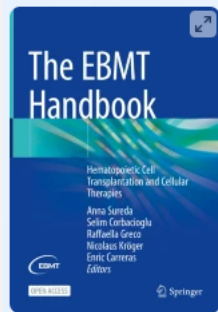
<https://unpaywall.org/products/extension>

- Knowledge sharing, with everyone
- Wider impact
- Allows your work to be built on (and credited)
- Compliance with policies (from funders and institutions)



Open Access vs Free Access

Feature	Open Access	Free Access
Cost for author	Can be a cost for Gold OA (but free Diamond and Green routes available) - author's choice	No cost, publisher chooses whether to make the work freely available
Access	Permanently freely available online	Available for free but for a potentially limited time; can be revoked by the publisher at any time
Reuse rights	Allowed under the terms of the specified open license (e.g. Creative Commons licenses); can be openly shared	No open license and so reuse may be restricted or not allowed at all; cannot be openly shared



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🔒 Free Access

Assessment




Sue Chapman, Eileen Brennan, Lindy May

First published: 05 June 2024

<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781394281275.gosh0001>

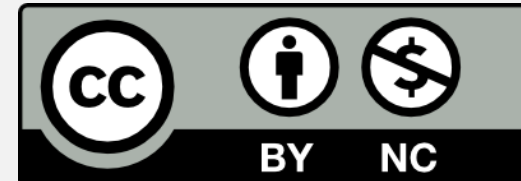
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-  BY: credit must be given to the creator.
-  NC: Only noncommercial uses of the work are permitted.
-  ND: No derivatives or adaptations of the work are permitted.

- License chooser:
 - <https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>

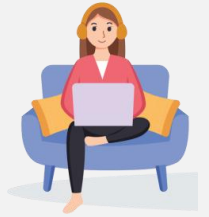
- May be some restrictions depending on the publisher (and funder policies may stipulate)
 - Check [Open Policy Finder](#) for license options per publisher



Summary



- Open Access makes research outputs available online at no cost to the reader
- There are three main OA routes: Gold (APC, no embargo), Diamond (no APC, no embargo), and Green (self-archiving)
- Benefits to OA: breaks down barriers, wider reach and impact, policy compliance
- Differences between Open Access and Free Access
- Creative commons licenses can be used to copyright your work and ensure attribution



More Open Access week sessions!

- Tuesday 21st Oct, 11:30am, Introduction to Evidence Reviews
- Wednesday 22nd Oct 10:30am, Choosing where to publish

Any queries please contact, elibrary@wales.nhs.uk



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References and useful links

- Huang et al. (2024) Open access research outputs receive more diverse citations <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11192-023-04894-0>
- Open Access Network: glossary of open access-related terms <https://open-access.network/en/information/glossary>
- cOAlition S <https://www.coalition-s.org/>
- Budapest Open Access Initiative <https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/>
- Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) Europe <https://sparceurope.org/>
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): <https://doaj.org/> (filter to “without fees” to find Diamond Journals)
- OpenBook Collective <https://www.openbookcollective.org/books/> (search ‘initiatives’ to find publishers that offer diamond publishing)
- Unpaywall: <https://unpaywall.org/products/extension>
- Digital Health and Care Wales Research and Knowledge Repository: <https://repository.dhcnw.nhs.wales/>
- NHS England institutional repositories <https://library.hee.nhs.uk/resources/open-access/institutional-repository-examples>
- Subject repositories, useful list: <https://canberra.libguides.com/c.php?g=599341&p=4148816>
- Cardiff University Press: <https://www.cardiffuniversitypress.org/site/>
- Edinburgh Diamond: <https://library.ed.ac.uk/research-support/edinburgh-diamond>
- Guide to Publishing Open Access Books and Monographs: https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/articulate/OA_Books/#/
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