

Transcript - How to publish your research open access

Welcome. In this video, brought to you by the Library Research Support Team, we'll talk you through your options for publishing your research open access.

What is open access publishing? In the traditional model of scholarly communication, the reader pays to access journal content through subscriptions. So, generally speaking, if you aren't at a HEI you can't read it; and if your institution doesn't subscribe to it, well, you can't read it either.

Another problem with this subscription model is, it costs money. Lots of money! Institutions can't afford to subscribe to everything, and the costs of subscriptions are driven by commercial publishers, which keep rising.

In 2016-17 institutions within the EU spent a whopping 421 million Euros on contracts with scientific publishers, and this figure is likely an under-estimate. These considerable concerns over the rising costs of academic publishing, coupled with the opportunities that digital technology provides, have enabled a move towards a new way of organising the market for publishing research results; a move towards open access.

Open access publishing aims to make scholarly literature available to anyone, free of charge at the point of access. As you're more than likely aware, publishing open access has a whole host of benefits that are not only good for your career, but good for society in general! It allows research to more quickly and easily reach a broader global audience and can improve the quality and impact of research. It's also increasingly mandated by funders.

So, how do you publish open access? Well, it can be quite complex. However, there are two main routes to achieving open access.

The green route. This is where a version of a paper can be uploaded to a repository or a pre-print server, available for anyone to access. Many publishers will require an embargo period to be applied before it can be made freely available in a repository, which varies in length according to publisher.

Then there's the gold route. This is where the final published version is available from the publisher's website, making it immediately free to read to anyone with an internet connection. For some publishers, this requires payment of a fee, known as an article processing charge (APC), to cover the costs of publication and to make up for loss of subscription revenue, though some don't.

But the big question is, how do you pay for it? Well, that's a good question. Whilst Open Access eliminates the price barrier for consumers, the costs to finance OA have shifted to authors. The choice between paying for Open Access publication (where a fee is charged) or going the traditional publication route is an individual one, though some funders have a preference for Gold.

So, what are your options? For some research funders, you can factor the cost of open access publishing into your funding bid. Check with your funder if this is an allowable cost on your grant and get in touch if you need advice on costs.

For UKRI funded research, there is a specific block grant fund you can apply to in order to cover publication costs. This is administered by us on a first come, first served basis. Check out our webpages for details of how to apply.

But what if you don't have funds in your grant and you aren't UKRI funded? Well, you typically have to find these funds yourself. And as we know, there is little scope in institutional library budgets,

which are tied up with paying subscriptions. But Is there a way that libraries can help to relieve the financial burden on researchers publishing open access?

Enter the transformative agreement. Many libraries worldwide are now exploring how to do just that, by negotiating new arrangements with publishers called Transformative Agreements.

So, what exactly is a transformative agreement? These are an exploratory form of arrangement agreed with publishers, that enable publishers to transition from a subscription to an open access business model.

Transformative agreements aim to redirect library funds from supporting subscription to supporting publishing, with the expectation that subscription-based reading payments will eventually cease to exist. They ask publishers to allocate a certain proportion of their fee towards an institution's rising publishing costs.

There is a lot of jargon around these agreements. You might also hear these referred to as transitional deals, offsetting deals, read and publish deals or publish and read deals, but they are essentially the same thing.

So, the important bit. What deals does the OU have in place? We now have deals with many major academic publishers, including Sage, Springer, Wiley and T&F, as well as several smaller and society publishers. Further deals are continually being negotiated.

All of the current deals are listed on our webpages. Some of these deals allow OU researchers to publish gold open access at no additional cost (to the author – remember the funding itself comes from Library budgets), and some offer discounts on the normal publishing fees.

But, it's important to check the details. Some titles might not be part of the deal. And, because of the exploratory nature of these deals, they can change at short notice, and new ones are continually being added, so it's a good idea to keep an eye on our webpage which lists all of the agreements we have in place, as well as the eligibility requirements for accessing them.

Want to know more? Contact us at: library-research-support@open.ac.uk

Thanks for watching.