



## What is it?

**Open Access (OA)** is the free, online availability of scholarly research outputs. OA deals primarily with access to peer-reviewed scholarly articles, for which authors receive no financial compensation.

There are two primary means of achieving Open Access:

**Open Access Journals** offer an alternative to traditional subscription-based journals by providing free access to the peer-reviewed articles they publish.

**Open Access Repositories** collect, preserve, and provide free access to peer-reviewed articles and other types of research outputs. OA repositories may be discipline-based or institution-based.

## Why Open Access?

Research knowledge is most valuable when it is shared as broadly as possible. It is our investment in the future. Today's and tomorrow's breakthroughs are built on insights gained through previous and current research.

With the Internet, there is an opportunity to widely and rapidly share research results. However, the high prices of many scholarly journals are inhibiting the broad dissemination of research results and impeding opportunities for further discoveries.

From the mid-1980s to the early 2000s, the price of scientific journals jumped by over 300%. Although e-journal prices have generally levelled off, annual subscription increases of up to 10% are not uncommon.

\* See *Monograph and Serial Expenditures in ARL Libraries, 1986-2006*  
<http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/monser06.pdf>

## You Benefit

There are many advantages to Open Access including:

- Greater citation and exposure of your work.
- Discovery and use of research beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries leading to interdisciplinary convergences.
- More potential for collaborations at various levels (local, regional, national and international).
- Greater control over your intellectual property, by negotiating balanced copyright agreements with publishers.
- Greater flexibility over how you can use the products of your research.
- The ability to track your research record via open access repositories.

# Open Access Policies

Research granting agencies around the world – such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Wellcome Trust in the UK, and the National Institutes of Health in the US - require grant recipients to make articles openly accessible by publishing their research in open access journals or by depositing their accepted article manuscripts into open digital repositories. For example, see the CIHR's Policy on Access to Research Outputs:

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html>

A growing number of universities are also adopting open access policies that require faculty to deposit their research articles into the institutions' respective repositories. Concordia University is one of a group of over 20 universities that belong to the Coalition of Open Access Policy Institutions- including Columbia, Harvard, MIT and Harvard- that have implemented open access policies. For example, see the Concordia University's Senate Resolution on Open Access:

<http://library.concordia.ca/research/openaccess/SenateResolutiononOpenAccess.pdf>

## Some Frequently Asked Questions

***What about peer-review and editorial rigour one expects from scholarly publishing?***

Open access journals are no different than subscription journals in terms of the associated peer-review and editorial quality control measures. The open access journal PLoS Biology, for instance, has consistently had the highest impact factor in its disciplinary category for several years.

***Does open access infringe on copyright?***

No. You are the copyright owner of your scholarly articles unless you transfer it wholesale to your publisher. You can retain some of your author rights; it is not an all or nothing proposition.

***How do I know if a journal will allow me to make my article Open Access?***

The majority of academic publishers permit their authors to archive peer-reviewed article manuscripts in open access repositories. The SHERPA-ROMEO service lists many publishers' copyright and deposit policies: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>

## How can I make my work Open Access?

### 1. Publish in an Open Access journal.

There are over 7000 open access journals, many of which are high impact journals. The Directory of Open Access Journals contains a list of these journals: [www.doaj.org/](http://www.doaj.org/)

### 2. Publish in a subscription-based journal and deposit your article in an Open Access repository.

Most universities in Canada now maintain an open access repository. Contact your university library to find out how to deposit. The SHERPA-ROMEO service lists many publishers' copyright and deposit policies:

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

If the publisher does not formally support article manuscript archiving, you can use an **author addendum** to modify the copyright transfer agreement with your publisher. See the **SPARC Canadian Author Addendum** available on the CARL website: <http://carl-abrc.ca/en/scholarly-communications/resources-for-authors.html#addendum>

### 3. Publish in a subscription-based journal and choose an Open Access option:

There are a growing number of subscription-based journals that offer an option to pay for your article to be made open access. Some university libraries have created **authors funds** to help faculty pay the publication costs of these publishers. This is also an eligible expense for many funding applications.

## Where can I learn more?

To learn more about Open Access, get in touch with your campus library.

Visit CARL on the web at

<http://carl-abrc.ca/en/scholarly-communications/open-access.html>

Inspiration for this flyer was drawn from SPARC and the Right to Research Coalition with our thanks.



**CARLABRC**

The Canadian Association  
of Research Libraries

[www.carl-abrc.ca](http://www.carl-abrc.ca)