



What is Open Access?

What is Open Access publishing, what does it have to do with the Library, and why should you care?

Open Access publications are *free to read* on the open internet. Readers don't need subscriptions or any other form of payment, either personally or through their university or library, to see the content. Open Access differs from Open Source, a descriptor often used for software with open code, free to download, use and modify.

Open Access Journals

Studies indicate that roughly 20 percent of all current, peer-reviewed journal articles are being published in Open Access Journals. Authors who publish in Open Access journals *retain their copyright* and control their own work. Research also indicates a citation advantage for Open Access papers—they get noticed and cited at higher rates than other articles.

Scholarly Open Access journals are subject to the same rigorous peer review as other academic journals, they just use a different funding model than traditional subscription journals. For example, see *PLoS Biology*, *BMC Bioinformatics*, and thousands listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

But *not all electronic journals* are Open Access. Most of the online journals you read are subscription journals—in fact, the SFU Library pays millions of dollars a year for these subscriptions on behalf of readers at SFU, most of it to commercial publishers.

SFU Support for Open Access Publishing

SFU supports Open Access publishing in several ways. The SFU Library:

- covers Article Processing Charges for unfunded authors who publish in Open Access journals through our Central Open Access Fund
- develops open source software for journal production and publishing (Open Journal Systems) and conference planning and publishing (Open Conference Systems)
- will host your journal free of charge if you're the editor in chief and using Open Journal Systems
- helps SFU authors negotiate with traditional publishers to retain their rights
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- can use SUMMIT to help you communicate the results of your research back to the community, or comply with funder requirements such as those from CIHR, Genome Canada, and others
- provides funds to digitize scholarly material you wish to deposit in SUMMIT, through our Scholarly Digitization Fund

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