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Open Access

What, Why and How

Research publications and
data should be available for
the world to read, to learn
from, and to build upon.



What does the term Open Access mean?

Open Access (OA) means unrestricted access to peer-reviewed scholarly research that is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

The OA movement is motivated by the problems of social inequality caused by restricting access to academic research, which favors large and wealthy institutions with the financial means to purchase access to many journals, as well as the economic challenges and perceived unsustainability of academic publishing.



Why choose Open Access, and who benefits from it?

Researchers

- Increases the visibility, readership and impact of your work
- Creates new avenues for discovery in digital environment
- Enhances interdisciplinary research
- Accelerates the pace of research, discovery and innovation

Research Institutions

- Contributes to core mission of advancing knowledge
- Democratizes access across all institutions – regardless of size or budget

Research Funders

- Leverages return on research investment
- Creates tool to manage research portfolio
- Avoids funding duplicative research
- Creates transparency
- Encourages greater interaction with results of funded research

Public

- Provides access to previously unavailable materials relating to agriculture, nutrition, health, energy, environment, and other areas of broad interest

How can I make my publications openly available? What do I need to do?

There are three main options authors can take to make their research outputs Open Access:

GREEN OPEN ACCESS

With this option, authors publish in the journal of their choice, and then self-archive/deposit a version of the paper (after an embargo period) in their institutional repository. **Ensure** you send the final peer-reviewed manuscript to the IITA Knowledge Center for archiving.

GOLD OPEN ACCESS

Authors publish in Open Access journals, which provide immediate access to their research paper. **Remember** to include a budget line in your research grant/proposal for OA publishing. Costs for OA publishing vary enormously depending on the publisher; however a good estimate is \$1,500-\$3,000 per paper.

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Thus science benefits the most from Open Access.