

ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

Open Access Week 2016 ARLIS/NA Public Policy Committee

Open Access FAQ

What is Open Access?

Open Access is a movement that strives to provide free online access to research and scholarship content and materials.

What is Open Access Publishing?

Open Access Publishing is publishing scholarly content in a way that is available to anyone, for free, online. Content is still peer-reviewed and held up to the rigorous standards of traditional academic publishing.

How does Open Access Publishing work financially?

There are different models for Open Access Publishing to cover costs. One is that authors (or their grants when applicable) cover the cost of publication through an article processing fee. Sometimes universities or scholarly societies create an OA publishing infrastructure for OA and take on the related costs for their affiliates. Sometimes advertising, endowments, or other types of sponsorships are utilized to offset costs.

What are Gold and Green OA?

Gold OA is the highest level of Open Access Publishing. It means that scholarship is made available for free immediately upon publication by the publisher.

Green OA is a model where the publisher does not have content freely available, but individual authors are allowed to post their articles online for free elsewhere.

Sometimes the authors can only do this after an embargo period, defined by the publisher, has passed. To self-publish in the Green OA model, authors may turn to an institutional repository, publish on their own website, or post to a discipline-based repository to provide access to their work.

How can Open Access Publishing help the arts?

We have seen museums, archives, and libraries open their image collections for free on the web making it possible for researchers and students around the world to access materials from afar. OA Publishing can do the same – provide access to recent

scholarship on the arts to researchers regardless of their ability to pay for access. This is important in developing countries as well as in places where library budgets are shrinking.

Who benefits from OA in the arts?

Researchers, libraries, artists, librarians, students...really just about anyone who has an interest in learning about art. From providing access to the most current research for scholars and universities that cannot afford subscriptions, to supporting the general interest of people going to museums, OA makes it possible for anyone to access content. This makes our discussions about art, knowledge of art history, and scholarly work richer and better informed.

What should authors do if they want their work to be OA?

If the resource is available to you, work with your institutional repository (IR). IRs often have guidelines and best practices for people who want to contribute content. If you do not work in a place with an IR, you can often deposit in subject repositories such as E-LIS (<http://eprints.rclis.org/>), a repository of library science articles. If you want to keep the copyright to your articles, there are free online resources to help you with this. For example, SPARC has created an author addendum that can help authors keep important rights related to their work. You may want to consider publishing in journals that are open access (<https://doaj.org>). Many publishers also allow you to post your article on your personal website, however this is not true open access, as unlike a repository it will not be indexed and easily findable nor does it provide for long term preservation or URL continuity.

Can I make my Art Documentation article OA?

If you published an art documentation article, University of Chicago press allows you to deposit it in your institutional repository after a one-year embargo. You can also post your article on social media or your personal website without an embargo. University of Chicago press does not currently allow you to deposit in subject repositories such as E-LIS. You can take a look at the Art Doc publication agreement [here](#).

What does OA have to do with librarians?

- Advocating for authors: Librarians have a lot of contact with people who publish scholarly materials. We can have an important role helping them retain copyright, understand OA and predatory journals, and connecting them with ways to participate in the OA movement.
- Providing access to resources: Knowing about OA resources can be useful anytime librarians support users by connecting users with materials they can access for free regardless of their institutional affiliation.
- Budgets: As our budgets go down and subscription costs go up, librarians need to be aware of other resource that can fill gaps in the services libraries provide. OA makes it possible to supplement some of our newly missing content.

How do I find OA articles?

There are sites that pull together OA content (such as The Directory of Open Access Journals), additionally Google Scholar does a decent job of finding OA content – searching there can save a lot of time compared to identifying individual institutional repositories to search.

How do I find OA images?

One great way to find open images is to look for items with the appropriate Creative Commons (CC) licensing (<https://creativecommons.org/>). Many museums and libraries are making the content to which they hold the rights freely available for scholarly work. OpenGLAM has a database for searching open image collections from galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (<http://open-collections.okfn.org/>).