Open Access Publishing, or Free Online Scholarship – What’s it mean to me?

Open access (OA) means unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed scholarly research. (Wikipedia). It’s made possible by growth of the internet (W3 in 1990) and the ease of digital publication instead of the limitations of print.

Organizing Principles

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) is a public statement of principles relating to open access to the research literature. It arose from a conference convened in Budapest by the Open Society Institute on December 1–2, 2001, to promote open access – at the time also known as Free Online Scholarship.

The Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing in June 2003 helped establish “open access” as the concept, and defined an OA journal.

The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities in October 2003 “asserted that scholarly research results and cultural heritage shall be freely accessible and usable for scientists and the public” and identified organizations, institutions, and publishers supporting the concept.


Public access policy requires “all investigators funded by the NIH submit... to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication”

Peter Suber, Director of the Harvard Open Access Project, on the topic: http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/opening-access-research

See info at end of this document about journal prices and their impact on libraries

Scholarly Communication at WSU
http://libguides.wsulibs.wsu.edu/content.php?pid=142902

The practice of charging authors a fee to publish an article “Gold OA”, which allows a publisher to recoup the cost of its services, has led to what we consider predatory practices: they’ll publish anything if you’ll pay for it, just as “vanity presses” do.

Examples of fees from well-known publishers:
PLOS $1,350-$2,900
Elsevier: $500-$5000

Bob Pringle, Jan 2015
This Sage-published study: http://sgo.sagepub.com/content/4/3/2158244014551714
refers to these articles:

In 1977 …over half of science articles had some form of author-side payment such as page charges … in some fields nearly all articles involved author payment. …. The most common requirement was page charges (38% of all articles published), which took into account the range of size of manuscripts submitted and further revision fees (3% of articles). …. Altogether, the average total fee for authors was nearly $820 per article in 2007 dollars. Most of the payment in the US (56%) … federal government through grants …; 26% … other funders, and 18% … authors’ personal funds.

In 2004, Regazzi emphasized that Open Access is not altogether new in that 81% of 1,218 journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) were founded in 2001 or earlier. In May 2008 there were about 3,347 OA titles in the DOAJ.

The average article processing charge (APC) was $906 U.S. dollars (USD) calculated over journals and $904 USD calculated over articles. The price range varied between $8 and $3,900 USD, with the lowest prices charged by journals published in developing countries and the highest by journals with high-impact factors from major international publishers. Journals in biomedicine represent 59% of the sample and 58% of the total article volume. They also had the highest APCs of any discipline. Professionally published journals, both for profit and nonprofit, had substantially higher APCs than journals published by societies, universities, or scholars/researchers. These price estimates are lower than some previous studies of OA publishing and much lower than is generally charged by subscription publishers making individual articles OA in what are termed hybrid journals.

Predatory publishers http://scholarlyoa.com/2014/01/02/list-of-predatory-publishers-2014/
As Bjork notes – not such a big problem, but a real one

Choosing a journal http://nahrs.mlanet.org/home/ journal list

Nurse Author & Editor: Articles useful for authors at http://www.nurseauthoreditor.com/searchres.asp?cat=authors
Include a useful editorial in the Sep 2014 issue, plus a good item on Predatory Publishing, with links to both Beall’s blog and list of Predatory Publishers and the collaborative effort between INANE and Nurse Author & Editor, the Directory of Nursing Journals
Sign up for your own access, no charge.

Bob Pringle, Jan 2015
Open Access **citation advantage**: Studies and results to date  [http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/268516/](http://eprints.soton.ac.uk/268516/)
(Last modified March 2014)

2001-2010 studies found a citing advantage of 35%-600% increase, non-OA vs OA citations (300%-450% in medicine)

**Journal Subscription Costs: Impact on Libraries**

While the growth of open access journal publishing may reduce the need for traditional library subscriptions at some point in the future, the peer reviewed journal literature that is classified as Gold Open Access, while growing, remains small. For example, 9.8% of journals in Thompson Reuters’ Journal Citation Reports for 2013 were Gold Open Access Journals. This percentage remains small. Despite a history of growth in this segment of the academic journal marketplace, it is not likely to dramatically change the needs for research library serial budgets anytime in the near future.

The general trends are not unique to WSU. They suggest that universities need to fund and communicate their research results in a substantially different fashion.

See the graph below.
Impact on Libraries