

Open access refers to the practice of providing unrestricted, online access to scholarly research literature, allowing anyone to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of published articles without barriers such as subscription fees or access restrictions. There are several different types of open access options available to authors and journals, each offering varying levels of accessibility and dissemination. Here's an explanation of the different types of open access options:

1. Immediate Open Access:

- In immediate open access, articles are made freely available to readers immediately upon publication. This means that anyone can access and download the full text of the article without any delays or restrictions.
- Authors typically retain copyright ownership of their work and grant the publisher a license to publish and distribute the article openly.
- Immediate open access ensures maximum visibility and accessibility for research findings, allowing them to reach a broad audience quickly and effectively.

2. Delayed Open Access:

- In delayed open access, articles are initially published behind a paywall or subscription barrier, restricting access to subscribers or paying users for a certain period (e.g., six months or one year).
- After the embargo period expires, the articles are made freely available to the public, allowing unrestricted access to anyone, regardless of subscription status.
- Delayed open access provides a compromise between traditional subscription-based publishing and immediate open access, allowing publishers to recoup costs through subscription revenue while eventually making research freely accessible to all.

3. Hybrid Models:

- Hybrid open access journals offer a combination of subscription-based and open access publishing models. In hybrid journals, some articles are made freely available to readers immediately upon publication (open access), while others are accessible only to subscribers or paying users.
- Authors may have the option to choose open access for their articles by paying an article processing charge (APC) to the publisher. The APC covers the costs associated with making the article openly accessible, while the remaining articles are published under the traditional subscription model.
- Hybrid models allow authors to make their work open access while still publishing in established, prestigious journals with subscription-based revenue models.

4. Green Open Access (Self-Archiving):

- In green open access, authors self-archive a version of their manuscript in an institutional repository, subject repository, or personal website, typically after an embargo period specified by the publisher.
- The self-archived version may be a preprint (before peer review), post-print (after peer review, but before publisher formatting), or the final published version (with publisher formatting).
- Green open access provides a means for authors to share their work

openly, even if it is published in a subscription-based journal, allowing broader access to research outputs.

5. Gold Open Access:

- Gold open access refers to journals that make all articles freely available to readers immediately upon publication, with no subscription or access fees. These journals typically rely on alternative funding models, such as article processing charges (APCs), institutional support, or sponsorship, to cover the costs of publishing.
- Gold open access journals are fully committed to open access principles, ensuring that research findings are accessible to the widest possible audience.

Each of these open access options offers different benefits and considerations for authors, publishers, and readers. Authors should carefully consider their publishing options and choose the open access model that best aligns with their goals for dissemination, visibility, and accessibility of their research findings.