

Working with Open Access

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Today's agenda

- Overview of core Open Access models
- What skills are required to work with Open Access?
- How can you develop these skills?
- Further reading and resources
- Questions



Overview of Open Access models

Rebecca Evans Senior Library Training Manager at SAGE Publishing



Who am I?

- Library Training Manager at SAGE (4 years)
- Background in Sales and Training roles in educational publishing
- Train internal colleagues; manage our Customer Training function
- Committed to helping people learn as effectively as possible



Hybrid Open
Access

Gold Open
Access

Green Open
Access

Mega journals

Preprint servers



Hybrid Open Access

Advantages

- Wide choice of OA venues
- ‘Prestige’ titles
- Compliance with funder requirements for OA publication
- Article is free to read for everyone

Disadvantages

- Potential cost to author for publication if they are unfunded, as many journals offering Hybrid model charge APCs (although there are exceptions where APCs are not applied)*
- Can be highly selective and competitive
- Long turnaround times

The **Hybrid publishing** model allows researchers to publish their article open access in a traditional subscription journal.

This model offers researchers the opportunity to publish Open Access but without limiting themselves to Gold journals. For example, SAGE offers hybrid publishing in >98% of its subscription titles (with only 12 titles excluded from the SAGE Choice programme).



*Point edited after webinar for clarification

Gold Open Access

Advantages

- Entire journal is free to read for everyone
- Findings can be widely disseminated since research is not behind a paywall*
- Compliance with funder requirements for OA publication

Disadvantages

- Potential cost to author for publication if they are unfunded, as many Gold journals charge APCs (although there are exceptions where APCs are not applied)*
- Smaller choice of titles
- Portfolio is less established compared to subscription/hybrid

*Points edited after webinar for clarification

Gold Open Access refers to pure Open Access journals: these journals have no subscription costs, and every article in the journal is free to read for everyone. This model allows researchers to show strong support for the idea of OA.

Some Gold journals are ‘flipped’ from the subscription model; others are launched as completely new journals in the Gold format.



Green Open Access (Self-archiving)

Advantages

- Usually compliant with funder OA mandates (if the right publisher is chosen)
- Free for the author with a free **version** for the reader too
- Helps author promote their work widely, for free

Disadvantages

- Different publishers have different policies re. manuscript version and embargo period
- Final published article is behind a paywall

The **Green Open Access** model allows researchers to post a version of their manuscript wherever they like, in addition to having the formal, peer-reviewed version published in a traditional subscription journal.

Green OA means researchers can widely disseminate their work whilst still publishing in their preferred publications.



Mega journals

Advantages

- Compliance with funder requirements for OA publication
- Broad dissemination of research findings
- Lower selectivity
- Fast turnaround times to publication
- Instant online publication upon acceptance
- Research is free to the read

Disadvantages

- Cost to author for publication
- Lower selectivity; some see them as a ‘dumping ground’
- Only a handful of titles available (biased towards the life sciences)
- Less niche focus in readership
- Relatively lower JIF and category rankings

Mega journals are Gold Open Access journals that span multiple disciplines and/or subject areas. *PLOS ONE* was the first mega journal; other examples include *SAGE Open*, *Scientific Reports* and *BMJ Open*.

Mega journals accept articles based on a ‘soundness-only’ peer-review process, leaving the academic community to judge impact. They are online-only, so are not limited by page count.



Preprint servers

Advantages

- Broad and early dissemination of research findings
- Instant online publication upon acceptance
- Allows researcher to receive rapid feedback on work (before traditional publication)
- Could lead to journal solicitations
- Can help future funding requests
- Free for both author and reader

Disadvantages

- Not peer reviewed; submission only undergoes minimal moderation
- Some journals do not accept articles that have previously been posted to a preprint server
- Not all formats accepted by certain preprint servers (e.g. editorials, book reviews)
- Generally cannot be withdrawn after publication

Preprints are an online repository for non peer reviewed, pre-publication articles to be hosted publicly, openly available for everyone to see.

Preprints are usually submitted to the server before or at the same time as the research is submitted to a standard journal.



However they publish, researchers should...

- Clarify and prioritise their motivations for publication
- Research options thoroughly (publisher policies can vary a lot!)
- Verify funder requirements if applicable
- Confirm publication costs and investigate funding options
- Choose reputable and trustworthy providers



Further reading

You can find SAGE's Open Access position statement [here](#).

Valerie Spezi, Simon Wakeling, Stephen Pinfield, Jenny Fry, Claire Creaser, Peter Willett, (2018) [*"Let the community decide?" The vision and reality of soundness-only peer review in open-access mega-journals*](#) (Journal of Documentation, Vol. 74 Issue: 1, pp.137-161)

Phil Davis (2018) [*Future of the OA Megajournal*](#) (Accessed 24 September 2019)

[Check out SAGE Open](#) for an example of a mega journal in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Leslie B. Vosshall (2018) [*The Pre-Print Revolution: Taking Back Control of Scientific Publishing, I post preprints*](#) (Accessed 25 September 2019)

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Please [email Rebecca](#) if you'd like to discuss anything else from this segment on Open Access.



Open Access knowledge and skills

Claire Sewell Research Support Librarian (Physical Sciences), Cambridge University Libraries



Who am I?

- Nearly 20 years experience in academic libraries
- Worked as a library assistant, cataloguer and customer service manager
- Previous four years spent training library staff in research support before moving to a Research Support Librarian role
- Editorial board of the *New Review of Academic Librarianship*, SC3, research into skills in scholarly communication



Over to you ...

You see a job advertisement for an Open Access role. How confident do you feel about applying?

- Not at all confident
- Not sure
- Very confident



Common questions

Do I need a research background?

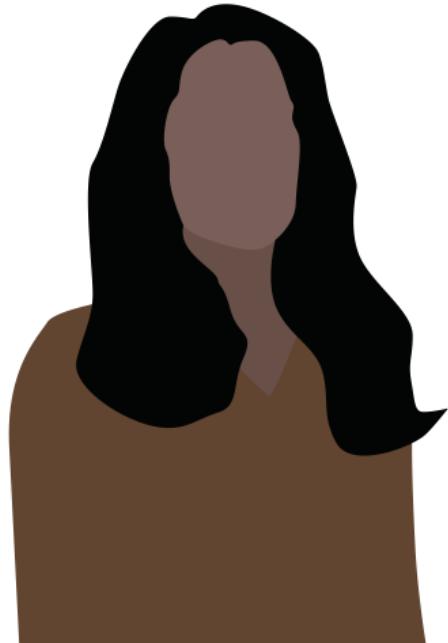
What are the available roles?

How can I build my skills?

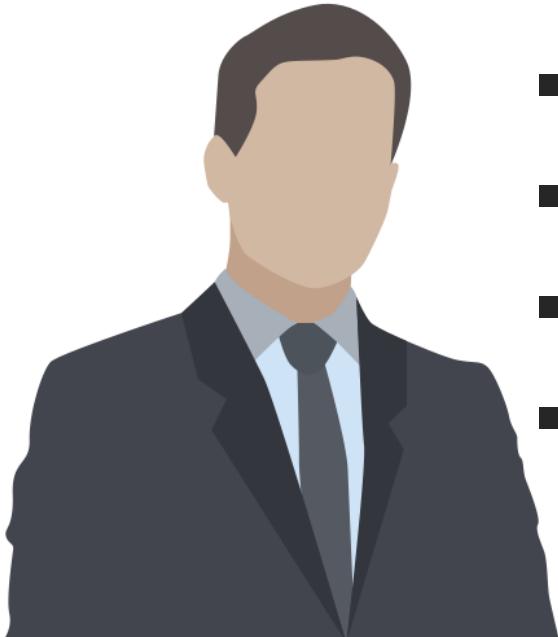


Do I need a research background?

- Understanding of the research and publication process is an advantage
- Good to recognise how major the changes are
- Librarians can bring a new perspective
- Need a balance of both
- Opportunity to get involved in research?



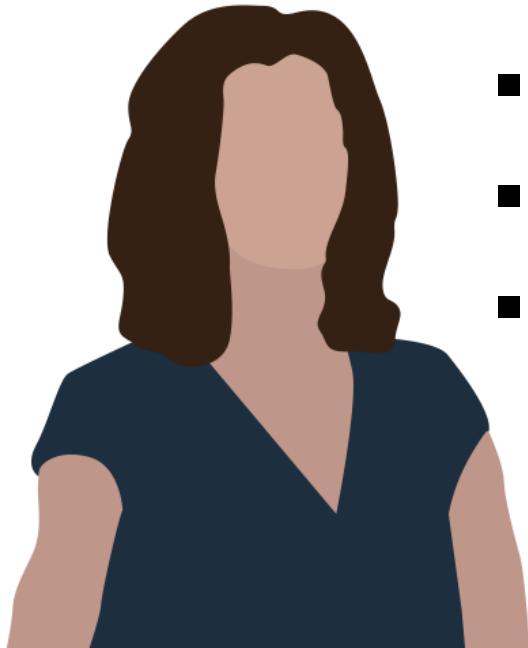
What are the available roles?



- Open Access Manager/Support
- REF Manager/Support
- Research Support Librarian
- Institutional Repository Manager
- Academic Liaison Librarian
- Training and outreach roles



How can I build my skills?



- Learn subject knowledge on the job
- Upskill on the basics
- Keep on top of the latest developments
- Take practical steps to upskill
- Remember the skills you already have



Over to you (again)...

Would you feel more confident about applying for an Open Access role after our discussion?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure



Any questions?

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