Open Access – An introductory reading list

This reading list is designed to introduce some of the basic concepts involved in open access publishing. It draws from a variety of independent sources and many of the websites will provide good starting points for further research for those interested in delving deeper.

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Glossary of Open Access Terms: This glossary produced by Open Access Network provides a useful (and extensive) overview of a range of terms related to open access:

- https://open-access.network/en/information/glossary

Pros and Cons of Open Access Publishing: This overview from the Dutch open access community gives a balanced and interesting perspective on the benefits and potential drawbacks of open access publishing compared to traditional publishing models.

- https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access/pros-and-cons

Models of Open Access Publishing: The diagram on this webpage gives a basic sense of the two main routes to open access (known as the *Gold* and *Green* routes). Note that while the illustration focuses on journals, the Green and Gold models can equally apply to books and book chapters. The other important thing to note is that in both routes the research undergoes the same peer-review process.

- https://uva.libguides.com/open_access/what_is_open_access#:~:text=6%2D12%20months)-,.,-Picture%3A%20Foster%20Open

How to Evaluate Openness: SPARC's scale of openness may appear complicated on first-viewing but it is a useful illustration that openness is not a binary yes or no. This resource demonstrates the multiple factors that go into defining how open a piece of research is.

- https://sparcopen.org/our-work/howopenisit/

Overview of Open Access for Books: The OA Books Toolkit created by OAPEN is a fantastic resource for understanding open access in relation to books. It covers both the basics and more advanced topics and helpfully covers the entirety of the research life-cycle

- https://oabooks-toolkit.org/