

Introduction to Open Access

Phil Jones
Licensing Manager
Jisc

Aims of this session

- To introduce the concept of Open Access in scholarly communications
- To explain how the Open Access movement has developed
- To discuss some of the current issues and future concerns in Open Access

What is Open Access?

In the context of Scholarly Publishing...

- A way of making the process and results of scholarship/research available to others so that academic work can be read, built on and reused as efficiently as possible
- It evolved in response to the problem of paywalls which restrict access to scholarship when researchers choose to publish in subscription journals often signing their rights to their own scholarship over to the publisher in the process



Image credit: MikeAMorrison, CC BY-SA 4.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>> via Wikimedia Commons

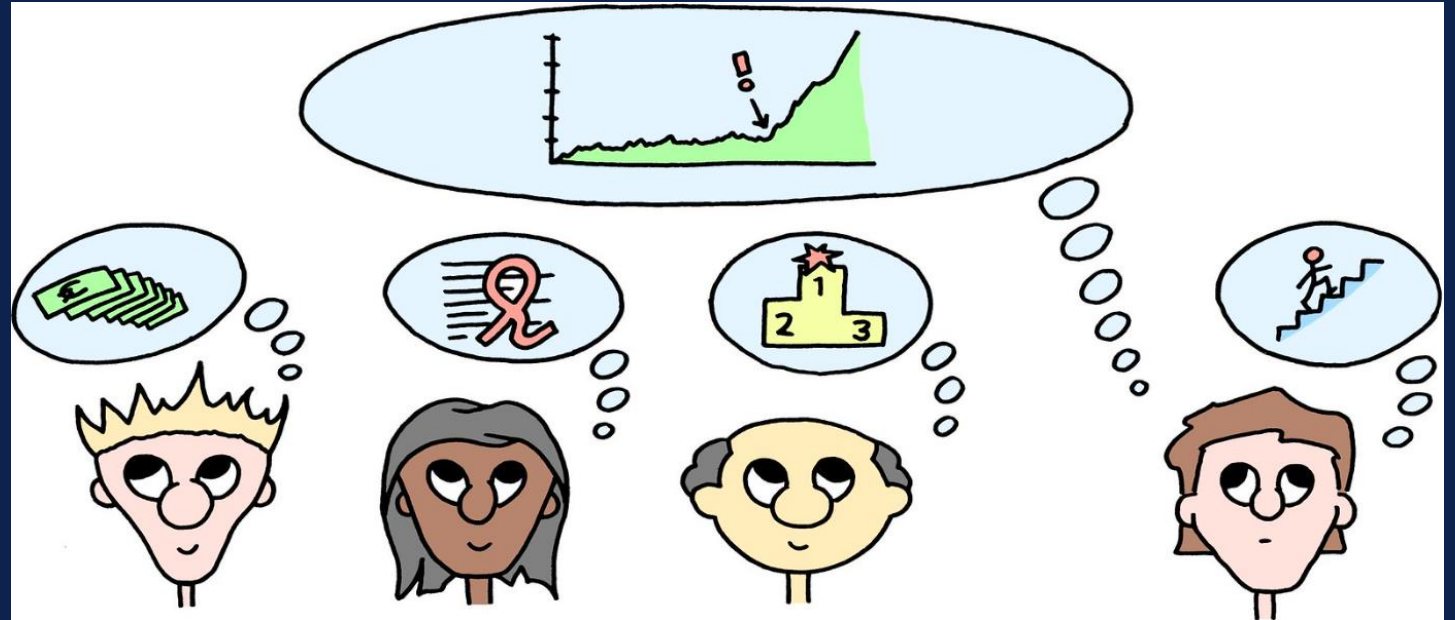
What is Open Access not?

- A panacea: language, disability, censorship, digital inequality barriers all still apply
- Low quality/ non peer reviewed
- An attempt to force scholars to forego royalties – articles don't pay and most academic books don't pay enough to make it an important consideration
- Cost free
- Depriving authors of their rights – quite the opposite
- Against academic freedom – even funder mandates often have generous loopholes
- A plagiarism risk
- Like pirated content and against copyright law
- Harmful to publishers interests
- Mainly a benefit to lay readers

Who is involved in Open Access?

Stakeholders

- Authors/researchers
- Funders
- Publishers
- Community
- Institutions
- Libraries
- Intermediaries (like Jisc)

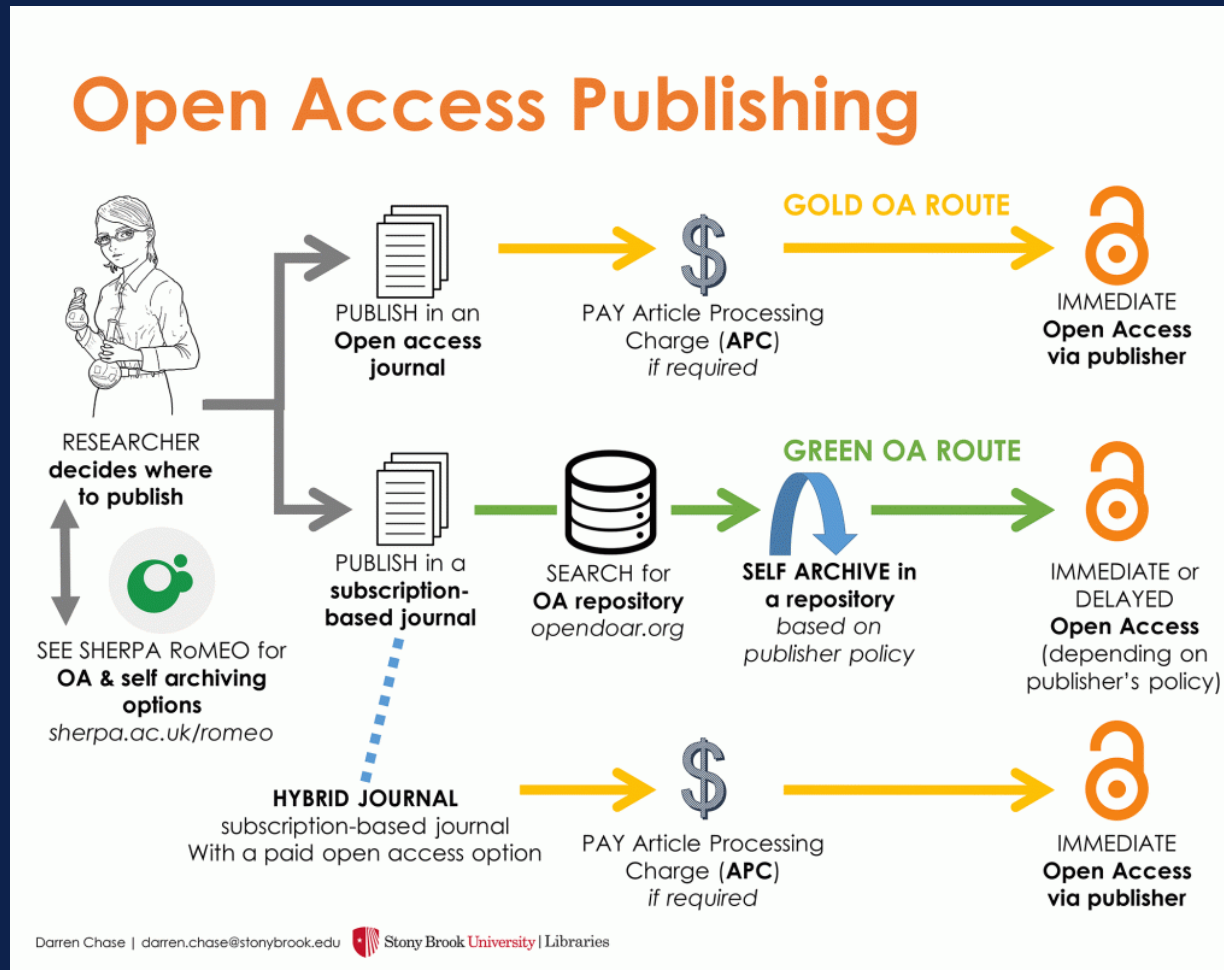


[Image by Jurgen Appelo on Flickr '09.1 Goals per stakeholder\[...\]](#) licence: CC BY 2.0

Forms of Open Access

- **Green OA** – self deposit (!) by author in a repository, normally of an author accepted manuscript (AAM) not the final version of record (VoR)
- **Gold OA** – paid-for publication on a publisher platform e.g. in a journal or book title
- **Diamond OA** – Like Gold but the author doesn't pay for publication, it's collectively funded by libraries, paid for by the hosting institution or other interested stakeholder
- **Hybrid OA** – publishing in a journal title that contains both closed access (ie. subscription) and open access articles
- **Bronze OA** – free to access but not guaranteed as such and may be time-limited

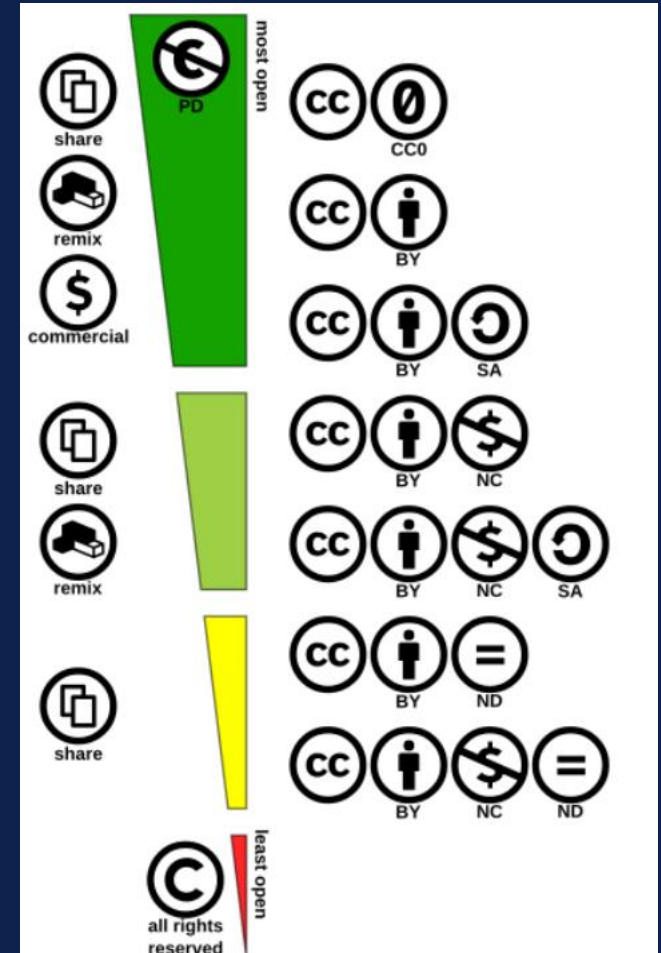
Different OA publishing routes compared



Darren Chase at the Stony Brook University Library, licensed CC BY-NC 4.0.

Open licences

- What are Creative Commons licences?
- Most commonly referred to as CC BY
- Often see CC BY **NC** or **ND** in monographs
- Non-commercial or non-derivative prevent rehashing and then profiting in rip-off books
- CC licences are most commonly applied but are not the only Open licences



Shaddim, MariaCurista, CC BY 4.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>>,
via Wikimedia Commons

Benefits of Open Access



Open Access timeline – 1 of 2

Major events in Open Access:

2002 – Budapest Open Access Initiative – defined OA and pulled stakeholders together

2003 – Berlin declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

2005 – RCUK releases position statement on Open Access supporting development of IR's

2006 – Wellcome OA policy requires deposit of funded articles to Pubmed Central within 6 months

2012 – Finch Report recommends publication of publicly funded research in OA or hybrid journals funded by APCs. RCUK's OA policy permits green OA but prefers Gold OA via hybrid or fully OA journals and provides £10 million APC funding

2014 – NIHR OA policy kicks in, REF OA policy mandates Green OA within 3 months of acceptance

2015 – OA2020 global initiative to transition from subscription to OA launched

Open Access timeline – 2 of 2

Major events in Open Access contd.:

2018 – Plan S launches aimed at global equity in OA, signatories include UKRI and Wellcome

2020 – Plan S rights retention strategy announced requiring immediate OA under CC BY licence for all author accepted manuscripts (AAMs) or versions of record (VoRs) funded by signatories

2021 – New UKRI OA policy aligns with Plan S requirements

2022 – Both UKRI and NIHR revised OA policies come into effect and OSTP memo announced in US requiring funded research to be “publicly available” without embargo from end of 2025

2023 – EU recommends member states invest in infrastructure for diamond OA publishing

2024 – Coalition S funding for transformative arrangements (TAs) ceases and Jisc release ‘Review of transitional agreements in the UK’

Where are we now?

- Most UK OA publishing via Transitional Arrangements with major commercial publishers
- Diamond OA gaining traction in Europe including via initiative like DIAMAS and PALOMERA
- Globally OA seemingly building significant momentum only in Europe, South America remains strong via green OA (eg. SciELO & RedALyC) and US OSTP memo likely to increase uptake in US dependent on the US election
- The REF2029 OA policy has dropped the mandate for longform OA which had potential to extend OA uptake outside of STEM and into AHSS



Image by Ed Gregory – Stokpic CC0 1.0

More on the UK picture

- Dominance of transitional agreements
 - What is a TA?
 - Why are they problematic?
- Desire of sector to move away from TA's
- About half of scholarship published now is OA but....
- Access to the vast majority of scholarship ever published is still behind major commercial publisher paywalls (unless you're in the privileged position of having post-cancellation access via Jisc agreements etc.)
- How do you move towards a more open, equitable and research-friendly system in these circumstances without harming your academics/students access to content?



Image by Garry Knight 'Flags' CC0

Why are we here now?

What has prevented OA from progressing faster...

- Culture problem (publish or perish)
- Lack of investment in alternative OA solutions
- Complexity of the problem and potential solutions
- Risk aversion?
- Aggressive lobbying/well-funded marketing and promotion by those that benefit from the status quo

What tools do we have?

- Technological innovation including AI
- Generational/cultural change – future publishers/researchers etc. will expect freely available content online
- The possibility of a less competitive and more collaborative UK HE environment in future
- Academic incentive structures
- Funder mandates
- International collaboration



SAiT71, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Questions for the future

- How do we achieve global equity in OA?
- What role do we want commercial publishers to play in scholarly publishing in future?
- How do we expand OA without encouraging article inflation and jeopardizing quality?
- How can we influence more of our researchers to change their culture and adopt open practices?
- Given the geopolitical climate at the moment, is global open access achievable or even desirable?
- If we want to address the primacy of the article and the neglect in scholarly comms of the research process, data, methods, peer review etc. how do we do that?
- What can we learn from the success of collective green OA platforms like SciELO and RedALyC in Latin America?
- How can we prevent the marginalization of non-Western knowledge systems as OA develops?

Thankyou for your time

Phil Jones

phil.jones@jisc.ac.uk