

## An Introduction to Open Access for Authors

### Subscriptions v. Open Access

Open Access publishing and subscription publishing are both business models. In the subscription model, some third party, such as a library, pays for a group, such as a university community, to get content for a period of time (typically twelve months). This process repeats itself each year through renewal. In the Open Access model, someone pays an Article Publication Charge (described below), in order to make the article immediately accessible. Once an Article Publication Charge has been paid, anyone, anywhere can access, share, and re-use the article under the terms of the Creative Commons copyright license.

### The Open Access Publishing Model

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### Article Publication Charges

An Article Publication Charge is a fee that is charged to authors to make a work available within the Open Access business model. In other words, the Article Publication Charge secures that access for anyone, anywhere under the creative commons license. This fee covers the cost of producing the article and supports the ongoing publication of the journal, serving the same function as subscription revenue does under a subscription model.

### Frequently Asked Questions

***Who Pays Article Publication Charges?*** Anyone can pay an Article Publication Charge and make an article free for anyone to read and share under a Creative Commons license. Individual authors sometimes pay this charge with personal funds. Often the cost of Open Access publishing is included in funding grants. Sometimes institutional libraries have funds set aside to cover the costs of Open Access publishing for researchers at their institution. More recently, very large funders are assuming the wholesale cost of Open Access publication under arrangements with publishers called transitional deals. For example, Wiley has a transitional deal in Germany through which German universities pay the Article Processing Charge for ca. 10,000 articles each year. All the author must do in this arrangement is agree to the transaction; the Article Processing Charge is then handled on their behalf by those universities.

***If I have a grant, do I have to publish my paper as Open Access?*** Possibly; it depends on the requirements/mandates of the institution or funder. See [here](#) for more information.

***Can articles just be free?*** Sure! Sometimes articles are freely available for a period of time for promotional purposes or as part of a special collection or issue. However, Open Access is not simply about making content free. It has been described as a [movement](#).