
Open Access and Digital Publishing

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Definitions

- **Open access**: Making scholarly works **freely** available to the public **without financial barriers** through the **internet**. (Usage T&C's may apply)
- **Digital publishing**: **Electronic dissemination** and access of scholarly works, making them more accessible and interactive.

Open Access History (32 years)

- **1991**, early experimentation with sharing manuscripts
- **2001**, Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI)
 - Definitions of Open Access - “Green” and “Gold”
- **2003**, “Berlin Declaration” on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.
- **2000**, BioMed Central, the first for-profit OA publisher, AOSIS in South Africa 2003.

Types of Open Access

- Repository-based or “**Green**” open access
- Journal-based or “**Gold**” Open Access
- “**Diamond**” Open access – free read and publish
- “**Hybrid**” open access in subscription journals
- “**Bronze**” open access – no open license
- “**Black**” open access – (illegal)

Open Access benefits

1. **Accessibility** (no financial barriers)
2. **Visibility and Impact** (work and career)
3. **Scientific Progress** (rapid exchanges)
4. **Public Engagement and Societal Impact**
5. **Cost Savings and Sustainability**

Trends in Open Access Publishing

1. **Articles:** 2015 (**18%**), 2018 (**28%**) – 2022 (**35%**)
2. **Journals:** 19,367 OA / 34,000 total = **57%**
3. **Drivers:** Funding, demand and OA mandates
4. **“Gold Access”** rapid growth (primary route)
5. **“Hybrid”** model in subscription journals
6. **“Diamond Access”** growing (community driven)

Open Access Policies and Mandates

- Policy (guideline) vs Mandate (instruction)
- **Mandate:** NRF (2015) – 12 months
- **Policies:**
 - UCT (6)
 - WITS, Stellenbosch, UKZN, UJ, NWU (12)
- All providing some funding support

Digital Publishing revolution

- 1665 – "**Journal des Sçavans**" (Journal of the Learned)
- ARPANET (1960s) – INTERNET (1980s) – went Public
- 1989 – "**New Horizons in Adult Education**"
- 1991 – "**arXiv**" preprint server (physics papers)
- 1999, SA 1st OA journal: "**SA Journal of Information Management**" (**SAJIM**) – Prof. Pieter van Brakel

Digital Publishing Platforms

- Commercial publishing platforms (\$\$\$ - \$)
- Open Source platforms – Open Journals Systems
- Online repositories (Pubmed Central)
- Pre-print servers (e.g arXiv, BioRXiv etc.)
- Indexers (DOAJ, ScieloSA)

Digital Publishing Tools

- **CrossRef:** DOI's – “permanent web address.”
- **Mendeley:** helps authors organise, cite, and share
- **Crossmark:** tracks the versions of publications
- **Altmetric:** tracks the attention that research receive
- **Social Media** (Twitter, ResearchGate, LinkedIn, etc)

Social media in digital publishing

- Disseminate research findings to a wider audience
- Connect with other researchers
- Build a research community around your work
- Measure the impact of your research

Tips for Social Media

- **Be professional:** avoid making any personal attacks or controversial statements.
- **Be selective:** share only the most important and relevant findings.
- **Be patient:** It takes time.....



Thank you for your time