

What is Open Access

Rachel Oleaga

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International **Open Access** **Week**

2025 “Who Owns Our Knowledge”



What is Open Access

Open Access means free, immediate, online availability of research outputs without paywalls or permission barriers. — [SPARC](#)

“availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of [research] articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.” — [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#)

Principles of OA

- Free online availability
- Accessibility
- Reuse permitted with proper attribution
- Equity & Inclusivity
- Collaboration
- Author Retention of Rights

Gratis Open Access

- Free online access
- Read free of charge
- No re-use rights granted

Libre Open Access

- Free online access
- Read free of charge
- Re-use rights allowed
 - Governed largely by CC licenses

Types of Open Access Publishing

Green

Gold

Diamond

Hybrid

The Problem Open Access Solves

Rising journal subscription costs – shrinking library budgets

Research behind paywalls limits access for students, researchers and the public

Why Open Access Matters

- Accelerates Research
- Supports equity of information access
- Access to research funded by tax dollars
- Increases visibility and citation of research
- Removes barriers for low-resource institutions
- Promotes lifelong learning



How to participate

- Publish in Open Access journals or in institutional repositories
 - Consider OER!
- Advocate for use in your discipline
 - Choose OA when reviewing or publishing
- Encourage students to use OA resources in research
- Ask a Librarian to visit your class and demo OERs, OA journals and Open Data Initiatives

Additional information & Resources

- SPARC – [Open Access](#)
- [HowOpenIsIt?](#) –Guide for evaluating Open Journals
- [Open Access](#) by Peter Suber (book)
- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ)
- [OA.Works](#)
- 5.1 - [Open Access to Scholarship](#) (chapter)