

OPEN-ACCESS PUBLISHING: WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Gold and green Open Access

Gold OA means publishing your article OA in a scientific journal. Publishers usually charge author-side fees for OA publishing. These fees are called Article Processing Charges (APCs) and cover peer review, manuscript preparation, and server space.

Green OA means offering OA to your publication in UT Research Information. If your work was originally published OA, then upload the final pdf of your publication to PURE Research Information. If you published non-OA, then also upload the author version of your publication (see 'Why University of Twente Research Information helps researchers' on our [OA page](#)). Uploading is free of charge.

Non-OA, hybrid, and OA journals

Non-OA journals consist of articles that are only available to those who pay a subscription to the journal or a one-time fee per article. When you publish your work non-OA, the publisher will ask you to sign a copyright agreement through which you transfer copyrights of your work to the publisher.

At the other end of the spectrum are the OA journals. You don't transfer copyrights, but license your work instead, usually with a CC licence. That way, others are allowed to share and use your work on your terms, and they always have to cite your work when they do. Since readers don't pay to read OA articles, the publisher will usually charge author-side fees for OA publishing.

Hybrid journals are in between non-OA and OA journals. These are subscription journals with an OA option: The publisher offers to publish your individual article OA at an additional cost.

Why publishing in OA journals is preferred over publishing in hybrid journals

Non-OA journals only comprise non-OA articles, so authors always publish for free. Comparably, OA journals only comprise OA articles, so readers always read for free. Hybrid journals, however, comprise both non-OA and OA articles, so the publisher gets paid twice for publishing one journal: once by readers through subscriptions and one-time fees, and once by authors through APCs. This is called *double dipping*. And that is why the Dutch universities are not in favour of hybrid publishing.

The Association of universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) negotiated with publishers of hybrid journals to eliminate double dipping for journals that the universities are subscribed to. This resulted in national agreements that stimulate OA publishing: The universities still pay for subscriptions, but corresponding authors of these universities publish OA in these journals for free or at a substantial discount. The universities would like to see that these journals transform into OA journals in which all articles are published OA, to eliminate double dipping altogether.

- [National OA website](#) | practical information about OA in the Netherlands
- [Association of universities in the Netherlands \(VSNU\)](#) | information about negotiations with publishers to let you publish OA for free or at a discount

Why OA publishing is preferred over non-OA publishing

In the Netherlands, most scientific research is funded with public money, so it is only fair if the public can also access the results of that research without having to pay again. Also, OA publishing increases the visibility of your research and as such, of the University of Twente. Finally, when you publish OA, you remain the copyright holder of your work, so you are allowed to share your own work as you like, for instance by offering your work OA in UT Research Information.

What you may not realize concerning cost and copyright

University researchers and students don't always realize that they can access so much scientific literature because their University Libraries are paying subscription fees to scientific journals. Would they try to access the same articles from a laptop that is not connected to their university, then they would have to get subscriptions themselves or pay a one-time fee to access each and every one of the non-OA articles that they are interested in. University of Twente researchers and students have access to many scientific journals, but not all universities are this lucky, especially in non-Western countries. OA publishing gives these universities an equal chance of using the latest research results. As such, OA publishing accelerates the research cycle.

Copyright is another aspect of OA that researchers and students aren't always aware of. When you publish non-OA, the publisher will usually ask you to sign a copyright form. As a result, you will no longer be allowed to communicate your work to the public as you wish, for instance by offering it OA in UT Research Information. OA publishing works differently: You remain the copyright holder of your own work, and give others permission in advance to reuse and share your work on your terms. When they do, they always have to cite your work.

- [CC licences](#) | explanation of the six available licences by Creative Commons

When you published non-OA: Copyright and self-archiving policies of publishers and funders

When you upload your non-OA publication to PURE Research Information, the University Library performs a copyright check, so you don't have to check yourself if you are allowed to provide OA to your article in UT Research Information, and under which terms. However, if you want to, then you can by looking up the journal in Sherpa/RoMEO's overview of publisher copyright and self-archiving policies. You can also search in Sherpa/JULIET, their sister site, for self-archiving conditions of research funders.

- [Sherpa/RoMEO](#) | publisher copyright and self-archiving policies
- [Sherpa/JULIET](#) | research funders' self-archiving conditions

Other ways to evaluate OA journals

Here are three additional ways to evaluate OA journals:

1. The Quality Open Access Market (QOAM) presents journals and their quality scores based on academics' experiences with the journal in question;
2. Publishers that belong to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA) tend to be more reputable; and
3. Cabell's Scholarly Analytics (Thomson Reuters) offers a blacklist of journals that are flagged as probable threats, because they show deceptive behaviours. You can use their criteria to determine whether a publisher is probably predatory (that is, out for your money and not dedicated to publishing high-quality research).

- [OA Scholarly Publishers' Association \(OASPA\)](#) | reputable publishers of OA journals
- [Quality Open Access Market \(QOAM\)](#) | academics' quality scores of OA journals
- [Criteria Cabell's Journal Blacklist](#) | how to recognize predatory journals