Awareness & Understanding

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openaccessweek.org
What is Open Access Week?

**Open Access Week**, a global event now entering its fourth year, is an opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they’ve learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.

What is meant by Open Access?

“Open Access” to information – the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results as you need – has the power to transform the way research and scientific inquiry are conducted. It has direct and widespread implications for academia, medicine, science, industry, and for society as a whole.

http://www.openaccessweek.org/
openaccessweek.org
What are the implications of Open Access?

**Open Access** (OA) has the potential to maximize research investments, increase the exposure and use of published research, facilitate the ability to conduct research across available literature, and enhance the overall advancement of scholarship. Research funding agencies, academic institutions, researchers and scientists, teachers, students, and members of the general public are supporting a move towards Open Access in increasing numbers every year. Open Access Week is a key opportunity for all members of the community to take action to keep this momentum moving forward.

What can you do to get involved?

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How difficult is it to participate?

Participating in Open Access Week can be as simple or involved as you like. It can also be a chance to let your imagination have full rein and come up with something more ambitious, wacky, fun.

OA Week is an invaluable chance to connect the global momentum toward open sharing with the advancement of policy changes on the local level.

http://www.openaccessweek.org/
• **OA serves the interests of many groups:**
  
  • **Authors:** OA gives them a worldwide audience and demonstrably increases the visibility and impact of their work.
  
  • **Readers:** OA gives them barrier-free access to the literature they need for their research. OA increases reader reach and retrieval power.
  
  • **Teachers and students:** OA puts rich and poor on an equal footing for these key resources.
  
  • **Libraries:** OA solves the pricing crisis for scholarly journals; help users find the information they need.
  
  • **Universities:** OA increases the visibility of their faculty and research and advances the mission of the university to share knowledge.
  
  • **Journals and publishers:** OA makes their articles more visible, discoverable, retrievable, and useful.
  
  • **Funding agencies:** OA increases the return on their investment in research, making the results of the funded research more widely available, more discoverable, more retrievable, and more useful.
  
  • **Governments:** As funders of research, governments benefit from OA in all the ways that funding agencies do (see previous entry). OA also promotes democracy by sharing non-classified government information as widely as possible.
  
  • **Citizens:** OA gives them access to peer-reviewed research, most of which is unavailable in public libraries, and gives them access to the research for which they have already paid through their taxes. But even those with no interest in reading this literature for themselves will benefit indirectly because researchers will benefit directly. OA accelerates not only research but the translation of research into new medicines, useful technologies, solved problems, and informed decisions that benefit everyone.

--Peter Suber, [http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm)
Funders:

- More than 200 agencies of all types – institutional, departmental, governmental, private, etc. – have crafted policies requiring that the research they fund be made available to the general public.
- The UK’s Wellcome Trust
- The U.S. National Institutes of Health
- The Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA)
- Autism Speaks (http://www.autismspeaks.org/)
Researchers:

• Think beyond free and ready access to the literature – made possible by Open Access – and consider how technology may be deployed to advance research.

• **Propose policy** to require Open Access to institutional research outputs.

• **Encourage** your department, institute, or campus to adopt an open-access policy.

  – **SPARC** - [http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/campus](http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/campus)
  – **Enabling Open Scholarship (EOS)** [http://www.openscholarship.org](http://www.openscholarship.org)
Administrators:

• Promote an open-access policy.
  http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/campus

• Create an open-access fund.
  http://www.arl.org/sparc/openaccess/funds

• Sign the Compact for Open Access Publishing Equity.
  http://www.oacom pact.org/

• Sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access.
  http://oa.mpg.de/index.html
Publishers:

• Open Access Week is a great opportunity to highlight open-access publications, milestones and achievements, and for publishers to consider how Open Access can help increase the impact of what they publish.

• Explore SPARC Publications for guides on non-profit publishing cooperatives, defining and negotiating successful sponsorships, converting subscription-based journals to open access, getting your journal indexed, and more.

http://www.arl.org/sparc/publisher
Students:

- In 2009, Open Access Week was the platform for the student Right to Research Coalition to announce that it had expanded to represent over 5 million students worldwide, with the commitments of the Canadian Federation of Students, the U.S. Students’ Association, and The International Association for Political Science Students.

- **JOIN the coalition,**
  
  [http://www.righttoresearch.org](http://www.righttoresearch.org)
Librarians:

• Librarians have played a crucial, leading role in advocating for Open Access worldwide. As a traditional focal point for scholarly communication innovation, libraries continue to exercise their leadership by encouraging faculty members, administrators, and students to engage in Open Access Week activities.

• **SIGN UP** to participate or learn more at [http://www.openaccessweek.org](http://www.openaccessweek.org).
• Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.
• OA removes *price barriers* and *permission barriers*.
• **Gratis OA** is free of charge, but not free of copyright.
• **Libre OA** is free of charge and expressly permits uses beyond fair use.
• **Gratis OA** is free as in beer. **Libre OA** is free as in beer and free as in speech.
• OA is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue (even profit), print, preservation, prestige, quality, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature.

--Peter Suber, [http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm)
• There are two primary vehicles for delivering OA to research articles.
• Most activists refer to OA delivered by journals as gold OA (regardless of the journal’s business model), and to OA delivered by repositories as green OA.
• The chief difference between them is that OA journals conduct peer review and OA repositories do not. This difference explains many of the other differences between them, especially the costs of launching and operating them.

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• Every university in the world can and should have its own open-access, OAI-compliant repository and a policy to encourage or require its faculty members to deposit their research output in the repository.

• OA repositories benefit the institutions that host them by enhancing the visibility and impact of the articles, the authors, and the institution.

• The two leading lists of OA repositories around the world are the Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) http://www.opendoar.org/ and the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR) http://roar.eprints.org/.

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Open access is not synonymous with universal access. Even after OA has been achieved, at least four kinds of access barrier might remain in place:

- **Filtering and censorship barriers.** Many schools, employers, and governments want to limit what you can see.
- **Language barriers.** Most online literature is in English, or just one language, and machine translation is very weak.
- **Handicap access barriers.** Most web sites are not yet as accessible to handicapped users as they should be.
- **Connectivity barriers.** The digital divide keeps billions of people, including millions of serious scholars, offline.

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Learn. Share. Advance