**In this video I will examine different publishing models**

Firstly let’s look at the traditional publishing model.

Before the age of the internet, an academic article would be only available in those libraries that subscribed to the particular hardcopy journal. So access was limited. Only those people that could physically visit the library that subscribed to the journal or those that had access to photocopies via inter library loan could read the article.

Then in the internet age, these journals were put online. Access was then limited to those institutions that had subscriptions. In terms of access, little changed.

As you will know if you have partners or siblings who study at other Universities, Universities subscribe to a different range of journals. Access depends on your University. This has for many proved frustrating as University researchers write and edit most academic articles. The publishers organise and collate their publications and reap generous profits whilst restricting access.

In response researchers have lobbied for open journal access for everyone and publishing models have been changing.

Let’s look at three of the new publishing models:

**Gold Open Access** journals permit access for all. About 30% of these journals charge the author an Article Processing Charge (or API) to cover publishing costs. This can range anywhere from $1,000 to $4,000.

**Green Open Access.**  Most of the traditional journals have morphed into this. These journals are available for subscribers only. But the journal publishers permit the author to publish a version of their article on their University’s Institutional research repository (in our case: Griffith Research Online or GRO). This version is then openly accessible to all. Normally the journal publisher permits the author to publish what is called the post-print version. This is the final version of the article after peer review – but without the publisher’ layout. The publisher generally stipulates that this version may be published only after an embargo period which can be anywhere from 12 to 36 months. So Green Open access permits some access, but not complete access.

**Hybrid Open Access.**  The hybrid journal is a combination of the gold and the green open access model. In any edition of a journal there can be articles which are gold and others which are green. When publishing their article, an author can elect to pay a fee to make their article openly accessible to all. If not, the article is available only to journal subscribers. Hybrid journals collect both author fees for individual articles as well subscriber fees.​​

**Other Open Access models are developing.** For example there are websites (such as arXiv.org) that publish article pre-prints. A pre-print is a version of the article before peer review. Such sites enable researchers across the globe to provide feedback to the author before the article is published.

**What advantages do Open Access journals have?**

Well the content can be viewed by all.

Because more researchers have access to the article, citations can be maximized.

OA journals can increase research impact. For example. let’s image a researcher wants to publish their article with the intent of influencing government policy. Many government departments don’t have subscriptions to academic journals. So it makes sense for them to publish in an open access journal so staff who make policy can read their work.

Publishing Open Access often involves openly publishing the data underpinning the research. This permits others to verify their research.

Open Access articles are often licensed with a Creative Commons licence permitting others to easily resuse and build on the research without needing to seek permission.

**With all the options available what steps can you take when deciding where to publish?**

You have spent quite some time doing your research and writing your article. It’s important to allocate time researching how to maximise the value of what you’ve written.

Here are some tips:

* Research all journals in your field (both Open Access and non- Open Access) that are suitable.
* Research their journal rankings. This is a highly important consideration.
* If you are considering a credible OA journal, is this likely to provide greater impact and maximise your citations?
* If you are considering an Open Access journal, are there publication fees involved? How much are these? Does your project or department provide payment support?
* Is the journal predatory, a junk publisher or a hijacked journal? You don’t want to be scammed by submitting your article to a dud publisher. You’ll need to carefully research your publisher to ensure they are legitimate. The next Power Point presentation deals with this issue.
* And finally, don’t forget to ask your supervisor and other researchers in your field for their advice. You can also get assistance from your research librarian.