

# OPEN ACCESS SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING

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# Definitions

- Open access is a mechanism by which research outputs are distributed online, free of cost or other access barriers.
- This mechanism reduces or completely eliminates access barriers related to copyrights or licenses.

# Types of Open Access

- **Gold** – provides full access to publications. Such access is provided through creative commons licenses.
- **Green** – allows authors to self-archive pre-publication copies of research output on institutional repositories.
- **Hybrid** – publications which have both open and closed access articles side by side.

# Types of Open Access...Ctd

- **Bronze** – publishes articles for subscription but open them after an embargo period ranging from months to years.
- **Black** – describes systems which enable subscribers to share restricted publications with people who have not paid for the same.
- **Platinum** – open access publishers who do not charge authors to publish articles.

# Open Access Licenses

- Attribution (CC BY)
  - lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon one's work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation.
- Attribution ShareAlike (CC BY-SA)
  - lets others remix, tweak, and build upon one's work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit the original author and license their new creations under identical terms.

# Open Access Licenses...Ctd

- Attribution NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA)
  - lets others remix, tweak, and build upon one's work non-commercially, as long as they credit the original wuthor and license their new creations under the identical terms.
- Attribution NonCommercial – NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)
  - allows others to download works and share them with others as long as they credit the originator; they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.

# Merits of Open Access

- Enhanced access
- Immediacy
- Enhanced impact (citations)
- Enhanced visibility (author and institutional)
- Stimulates knowledge creation and diffusion
- Liberalises research sphere (less control)
- Value for money (increases public good)

# Demerits of Open Access

- Quality (credibility)
- Article handling costs (APC)
- Predatory publishers
- Non-standardised access licensing regime
- Less sustainable (no direct revenue)
- Depends highly on technology
- Low impact factor publications



# Quality Assurance in Open Access

- The main quality control mechanism is peer review
- Two main types of peer review exist:
  - Blind (double blind): parties (authors and peer reviewers) do not know each other.
  - Open: parties in the peer review process know each other.
- Double blind peer review is commonly used.

# Quality Assurance in Open Access

- Limitations of peer review:
  - Bias
  - Veracity
  - Lack of transparency
  - Time constraints
  - Lack of incentives to reviewers
  - Lack of competent peer reviewers
  - Contradictions