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Instantly find and request research articles and data you need with the Open Access Button. Legally...

Jul 18 · 3 min read

## Making more research Open Access one paper at a time

At the Open Access Button we go beyond finding research and directly reach out to scholars who publish their work in paywalled journals to ask them to legally share their research. We recently shared a few examples of stories from users who have used the Button to request research they need. With each request we create more freely available research.

## Turning paywalls into OA

Each request begins as a search from an individual researcher, student, doctor, or curious person. Let's take a recent request for example. Christof, a researcher, searched for a recently published paper titled "Exploring the role of gender in 19th century fiction through the lens of word embeddings" by pasting in the paper's url in the search box at openaccessbutton.org. The Button searched thousands of open access repositories by utilizing repository aggregators, including BASE, CORE, oaDOI, Share, and others.

Unfortunately, the paper wasn't found in a repository. The Button then prompted Christof to create a request and asked, *How would getting access to this research help you?*



The screenshot shows a web interface for the Open Access Button. At the top, a red banner reads "This article is inaccessible" with a sub-link "I actually wanted the data". Below this, the article title "Exploring the role of gender in 19th century fiction through the lens of word embeddings" is displayed. A message states: "We ask the author to make this article available to everyone for free - legally. Start a request and we'll take care of the rest!". Below the message is a text input field with the placeholder text: "How would getting access to this research help you? This message will be sent to the author, and helps them to understand why the research should be made available." At the bottom of the form is a blue "Submit" button.

The Open Access Button automatically extracts the corresponding author's email address from the paywalled page or we find it manually. Once a request has all the information it needs, the Request Manager, Natalia, double checks the request and sends it to the author. The requester is notified and can track progress in their inbox or on our website.

Christof's paper request was sent out the same day to the corresponding author. The author received an email that included:

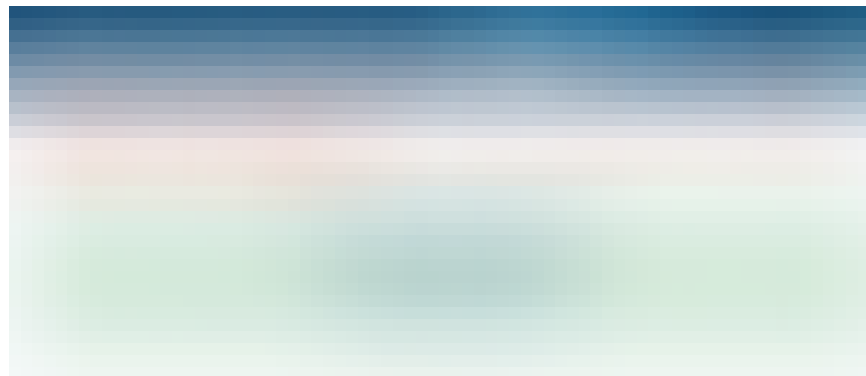
*A researcher is interested in reading your article, “Exploring the role of gender in 19th century fiction through the lens of word embeddings.” Christof told us that “I’m working on use cases in the humanities employing word embeddings. There are not many of them so your contribution would be essential to my work.” By sharing your article you’ll help Christof, but it could also increase the impact of your research.*

All major publishers permit the author to share a version of their article in a repository or personal website. For the majority of requests we send, the author can legally share the submitted or accepted versions of the article! If authors wish to share their research, they can either deposit it to a repository and send us a link, or give us a copy to upload. We archive articles in [Zenodo](#). However, if their publishing agreement prevents them from sharing their article, the author can refuse the request.



Our new author deposit page. Authors are provided with easy methods to upload their research, share via url, or refuse the request. For journals included in SHERPA/RoMEO, we provide information to the author on what version of their research can be legally shared.

Great news: the author responded to Christof's request in one day with a link to an archived copy of the paper. We sent Christof the link and now the paper is discoverable and freely accessible to all!



## Volunteer on the request system

Our next goal is to get every request from user to author in under four hours. This is where we need your help. [We are looking for volunteers](#) to moderate requests in order to accelerate the process from request to newly archived, openly accessible research. The system is extremely easy to use, no technical skills are required. Whether you have 15 minutes, 1 hour, or more time to give, you can sign up up for a short shift and help make more research openly available! If you're interesting in volunteering to moderate request, [join our chat group](#) and Natalia will guide you through the onboarding process.

