



IOP

Open access publishing

Key information for authors

Open access is a way for authors to share articles that they have published in scholarly journals with their research community and the wider public, at no cost to the reader.

When we talk about open access, two different ways of delivering access to research dominate discussions. The first – gold* open access – means that the final published version of an article has been made free to read online with additional usage rights. This is normally paid for by an author, their funder or by some other means. The second – green* open access – means that a version of an article has been made available (normally with more limited reuse rights) in an online repository, either hosted by a university or in a separate dedicated subject repository.

What is IOP Publishing's open access policy?

IOP Publishing (IOP) is committed to providing long-term, sustainable access to quality scientific research for everyone, while maintaining high-value, trustworthy author and reader services, which enhance scientific communication and progress.

In practical terms, this means that as an IOP author you can:

- Post your pre-print into a repository with no restrictions.
- Choose to publish on a gold open access basis in more than 40 of IOP's wholly owned and partner journals.
- Post the final published version of your article into a repository immediately when you choose the gold open access option.
- Post your accepted manuscript into an institutional or subject repository after a 12-month embargo*, regardless of which journal you publish in (with reuse restrictions) – also known as green open access or self-archiving. There is no charge for this. This is applicable for all articles published in IOP journals.
- Publish under a CC BY 3.0 licence* when you choose the gold open access route.
- Be compliant with the **NIH**, **OSTP** and **RCUK**, and the majority of policies on open access.
- Be confident that your paper will be preserved for the long term in the scientific record in services like **CLOCKSS** and **PORTICO**.
- Be confident that the peer-review and production services you receive will be of the highest quality.
- Guarantee that your work is discoverable on search engines and in the major indexing services.

Find out more at iopscience.org/openaccess

* See the glossary on page 3.

Ten questions to consider when publishing on an open access basis

1 What kind of open access do you and your co-authors want for your article?

Generally speaking, there are two main routes to making your article available on an open access basis.

- **Gold** – an article publication charge is paid in return for full immediate open access of the version of record of an article.
- **Green** – you place the accepted manuscript into a repository, normally after an embargo period.

2 Does your funder/institution have an open access policy?

It is critical to establish if your funder or institution has a preference/policy for open access publishing and how this is compatible with your publishing preferences.

3 Are your co-authors bound by any open access requirements?

Different institutions have variable open access requirements. The differences could be around what copyright licences can be used for or what funds are available. This may affect your publishing choices.

4 Does your preferred journal provide the open access options you need?

Different journals and publishers have variable open access policies. You will need to check that your preferred journal is compatible with any policies you are required to comply with. All IOP's journals have information about their open access options accessible from the journal homepages.

5 If you choose green open access, what is the publisher's embargo period and which repository will you choose?

There might be guidance on this in your institution's/funder's open access policy. You or your co-authors might have a preference regarding subject repository vs institutional repository. You can check the **SHERPA** **RoMEO**'s directory for a journal/publisher's copyright policies and self-archiving policies, but these do change so it is worthwhile checking with the journal itself. For reference, IOP has a 12-month embargo period for green open access but there may be some exceptions at a title level that need to be checked.

6 If you choose gold open access, what is the article publication charge you need to pay and where will you get the funds?

Funding might be available through your research grant, via your department or via your library. IOP also offers discounts for referees for gold open access publishing. The article publication charge for IOP journals ranges from £1200 to £1700, depending on the title. Full details are available at iopscience.org/openaccess.

7 What is the copyright/licence policy of the publisher, i.e. how can the published work be reused?

The most commonly used licence for gold open access publishing is CC BY, which has liberal reuse rights attached to it. However, articles made available by green open access might not have the same reuse rights. If CC BY is not appropriate for your paper then please contact us at copyright@iop.org to discuss options.

8 Does your preferred journal meet your quality standards?

The same assessments of a journal's quality that you would normally apply should be used to scrutinize open access journals in terms of status, scope, suitability, publication speed, Impact Factor, article-level metrics, archiving policy and availability in indexing services, etc. Have you checked the background of the journal? How long has the journal been established? For example, is the journal you have selected registered with the **Directory of Open Access Journals** and is the publisher a member of the **Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)**?

9 Where can I go to learn more about IOP's open access policy?

IOP's open access policy is regularly reviewed. You can keep up to date at iopscience.org/openaccess. You can also follow up with your subject librarian to learn what resources and support for open access exist at your institution.

10 I've still got questions – who can I ask?

If you wish to publish with IOP, we are always happy to offer help and guidance on any of the issues raised in this list. Please e-mail us at custserv@iop.org.

Open access glossary

Accepted manuscript

The author's original version of an article after any changes made during peer review but before any editing, typesetting, etc, by the publisher.

APC

The APC is a commonly used acronym that stands for article publication or processing charge. An APC is normally charged by a journal to make an article available on a gold open access basis. Some journals do not charge APCs where other funding models exist.

Creative Commons

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CC BY

This is the most commonly used Creative Commons licence for open access publishing. With this licence you are free to:

- Share – to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- Remix – to adapt the work
- Make commercial use of the work

Under the condition that you must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work). IOP has produced an **introduction to copyright and licensing guide for authors**.

Embargo period

An embargo period on green open access refers to the period of time set by a publisher that an author must observe before making their work publicly available to view in an online repository. For IOP journals this is 12 months although some exceptions may apply, please see the journal homepages for more information.

Final published version

The typeset and copy-edited version of an article published in a journal is known as the version of record or final published version of an article and includes all of its metadata and reference history, etc. This is the version that should be used for references and is the version used by indexers, etc.

Gold open access

Gold open access is the model under which a fee is paid by the author, their institution or the funding body to make the article freely available to read and be reused by everybody.

Green open access

Green open access refers to self-archiving an article in a subject or institutional repository. It is generally the author's final peer-reviewed version (the accepted manuscript before it is prepared for publication), not the published version. Articles are usually posted with an embargo. No contribution is made to the costs of publication and no charge is paid by the author. All articles published in IOP's subscription journals can be posted in a repository with a 12-month embargo.

Hybrid journal

A hybrid journal is a subscription journal that offers authors the option to make individual articles available on a gold open access basis on payment of an article publication charge.

Pre-print or author's original manuscript

This is a paper before it has been submitted to a publisher. It might have been published online in a pre-print server but has not gone through peer review.