

Emerging Trends in Open Access

Dr Vrushali Dandawate
Librarian AISSMSCOE, DOAJ
Senior Ambassador (Asia)
vrushali@doaj.org

NACLIN DELNET 3-5
Dec 2025





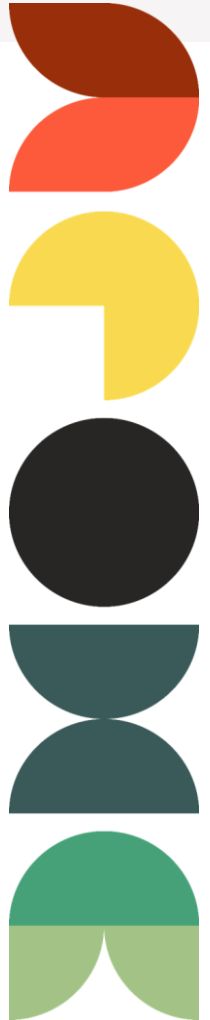
Open Access Introduction



- Open access (OA) is a publishing model that allows research articles, data, and other scholarly outputs to be freely available online to anyone, without subscription or payment barriers.
- Key features:
 1. Readers can access, read, download, and share the content for free.
 2. It increases the visibility, accessibility, and impact of research.
 3. OA is often supported through institutional funding, grants, or OA-friendly publishing models (like gold or diamond OA).

Type of Open Access Models

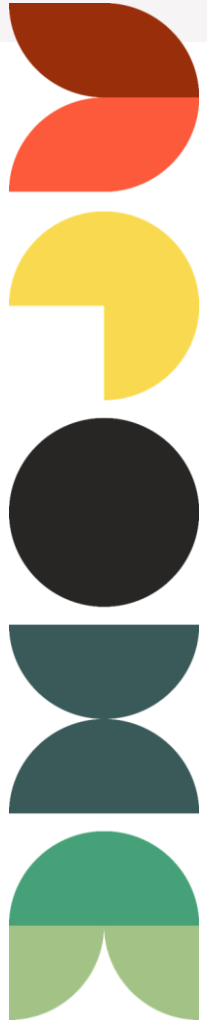
- **Gold OA** – Free to read immediately; APC usually required.
- **Green OA** – Self-archived preprint/postprint in a repository.
- **Hybrid OA** – Subscription journal with optional APC for individual articles.
- **Diamond/Platinum OA** – Free to read and free to publish; no APC.
- **Bronze OA** – Free to read but without an open license.



Green VS Gold

Green OA:

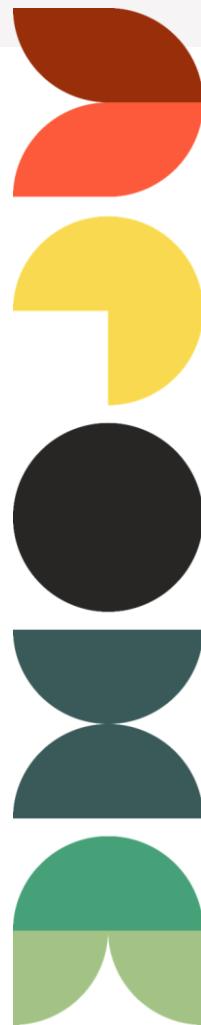
- May not be available immediately due to publisher embargoes
- It is free, a cost-effective solution
- Complexity of Green OA – when, where and what version of a paper can be made OA has led to it being ignored by researchers.



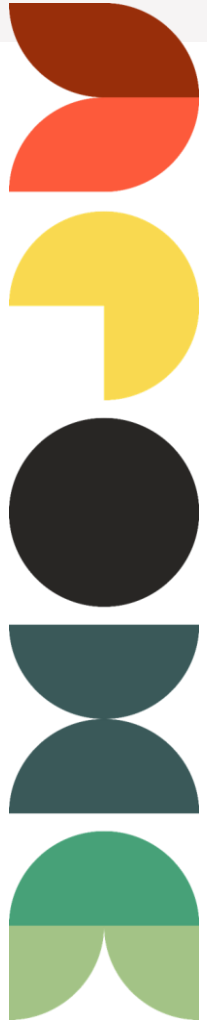
Green VS Gold

Gold OA:

- May involve an Article Processing Charge (APC) for the author
- Immediately available with re-use rights (Creative Commons License)
- *DOAJ indexes only Gold OA journals*



Benefits of OA

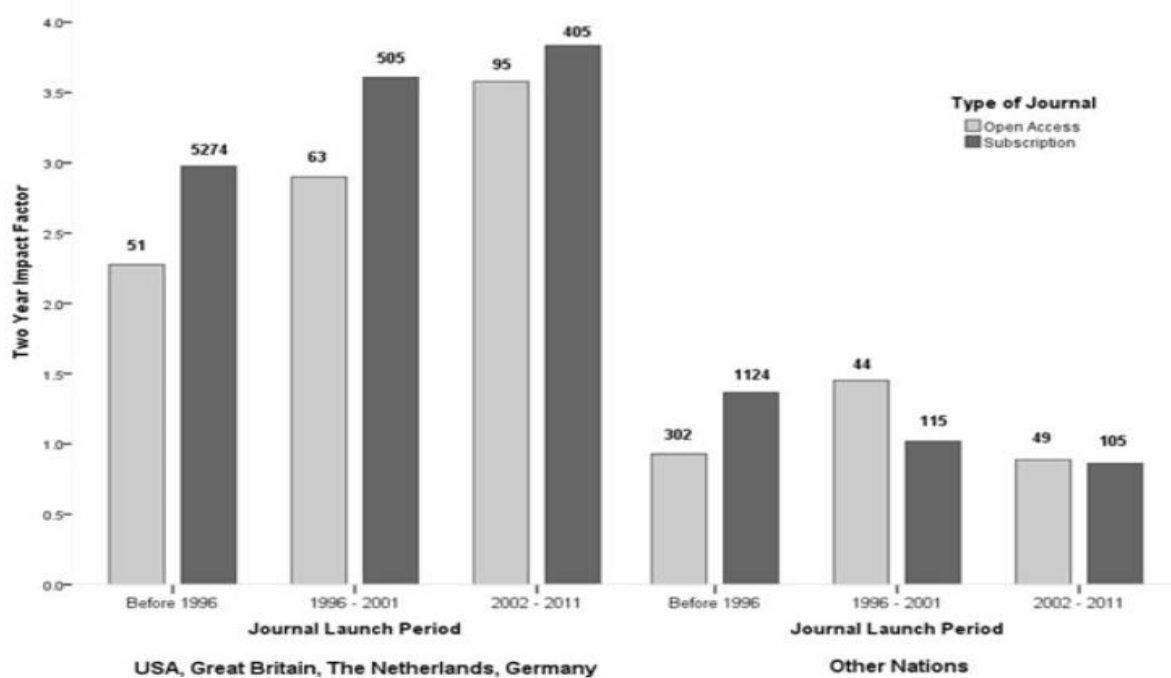


Scientific Impact of OA journals vs Subscription journals

OA journals indexed in WoS & Scopus are approaching same impact & quality as subscription journals (Bjork & Solomon, 2012)

Figure 1.

Resolution: **standard** / [high](#)

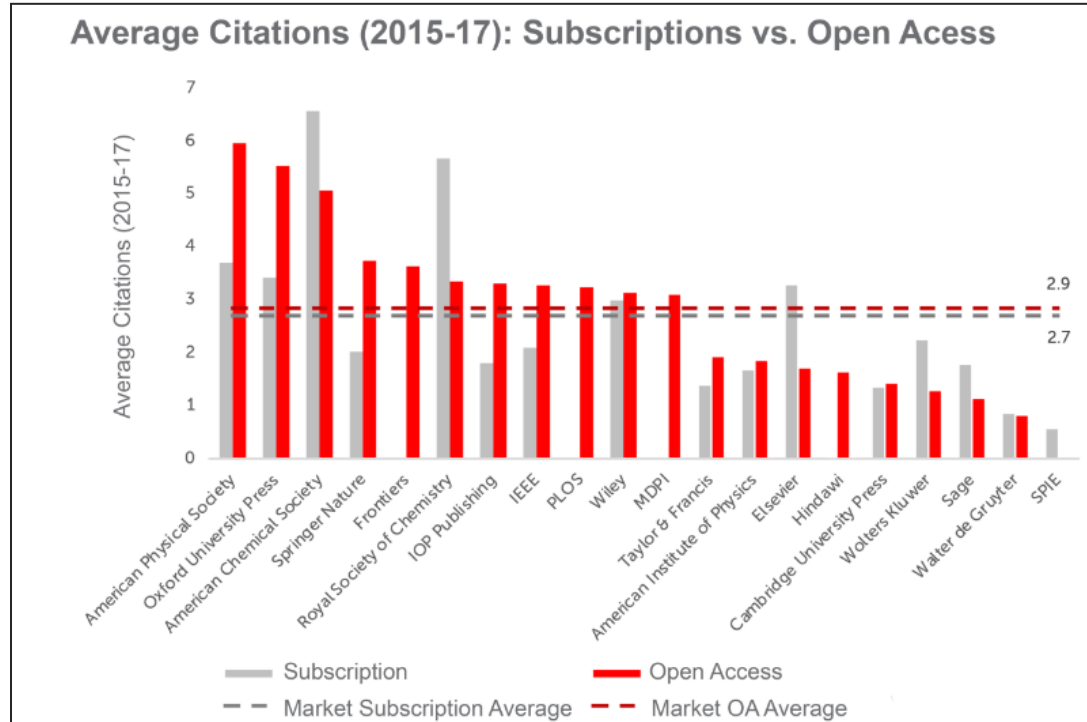


Citation averages as a function of the journal start year for two regions. The figures are based on Web of Science and weighted by journal article volumes.

Björk and Solomon *BMC Medicine* 2012 **10**:73 doi:10.1186/1741-7015-10-73

OA journals have a citation advantage over Subscription journals (source: blog.frontiersin.org)

Across the last three years, OA journals receive on average 7% more citations than subscription journals (Mirjam Curno & Stephanie Oeben)

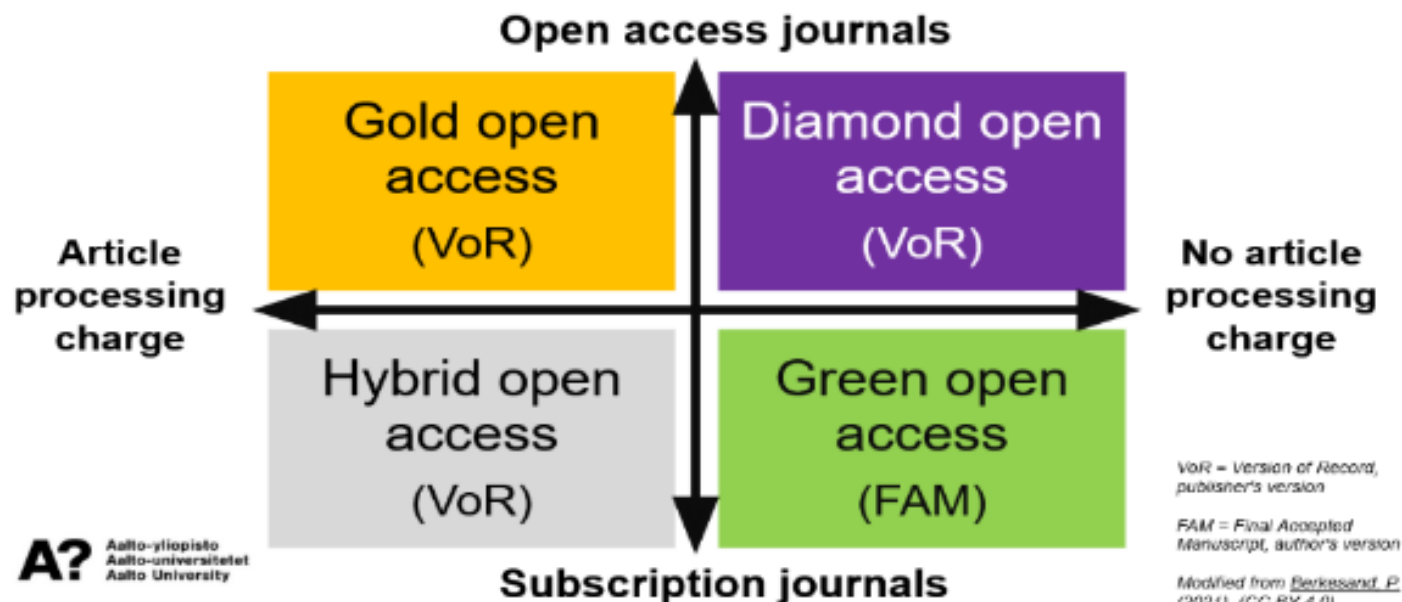


Average Citations per paper over a three-year window (2015-17) for top 20 largest publishers in 2017 in SCImago (2018) split into subscription journals (gray) and OA journals (red).

Reference: <https://blog.frontiersin.org/2018/07/11/scientific-excellence-at-scale-open-access-journals-have-a-clear-citation-advantage-over-subscription-journals/>

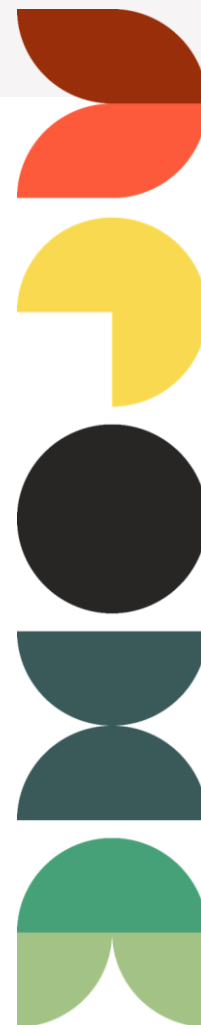


Different types of OA



Comparison of Major Open Access (OA) Models

OA Model	Free to Read?	APC?	Location	Example
Gold OA	Yes	Usually yes	OA journals	PLOS ONE
Green OA	Yes (deposit)	No	Repositories	arXiv
Hybrid OA	Yes if APC	Yes	Subscription journals	Elsevier Hybrid Journals
Diamond OA	Yes	No	Institution-funded OA journals	SciPost
Bronze OA	Yes (no license)	No	Publisher website	Free-to-read articles on Wiley



What is Transformative agreements

Transformative agreements are deals where universities pay publishers so that:

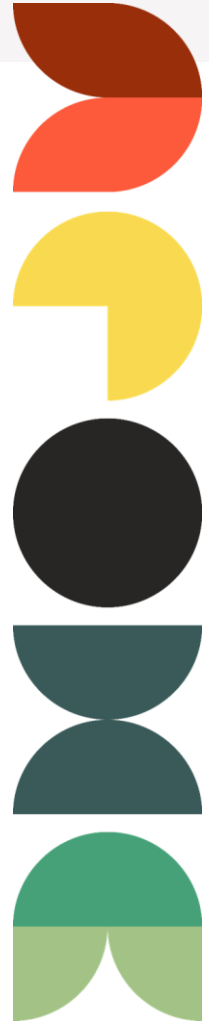
- Researchers can read journals, and
 - They can publish their work openly for free (no author fees).
- It's a way to move from paywalled journals to open access.



Transformative agreements Advantages / Disadvantage

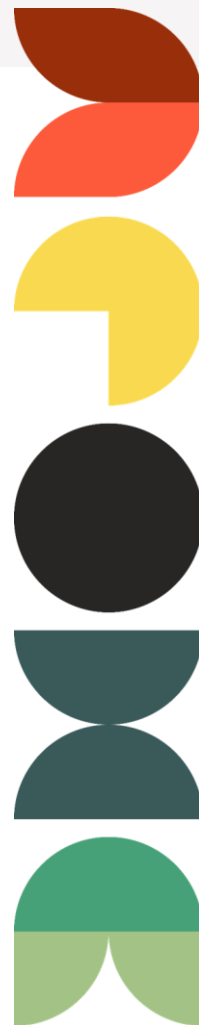
- **Advantages**
 - Free to read
 - Free to publish
 - Easy for authors
 - Supports open access

- **Disadvantages**
 - Costly for universities
 - Favors big publishers
 - Unequal benefits
 - Limited journal coverage



Transformative Agreements Examples

Publisher	Type of Agreement	Participating Regions	Key Features	Equity Considerations
Elsevier	Read-and-Publish	Europe, North America	Subscription + OA publishing bundled	High cost may exclude smaller institutions
Springer Nature	Publish-and-Read	Global	Institution covers APC + access	Tiered pricing available for low-income countries
Wiley	Transformative OA	Australia, Europe	Encourages OA transition	Waivers for developing nations
Taylor & Francis	Read-and-Publish	UK Europe	Supports hybrid journals	Limited coverage outside participating regions



Technological Innovations in Open Access Publishing



Preprint Servers



Open Repositories



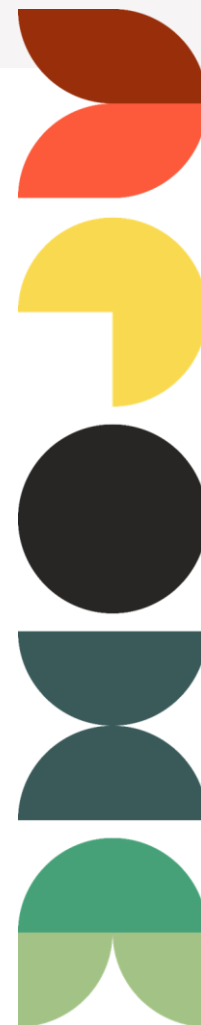
Automated Workflows



Article-Level Metrics

Challenges in Open Access Publishing

Challenge	Description
High publishing fees (APCs)	Authors may need to pay large fees to publish
Predatory journals	Some journals lack proper peer review and exploit authors
Financial sustainability	OA models can be difficult for publishers to maintain
Limited support for low-income researchers	Some researchers cannot afford APCs
Complex copyright/licensing	Authors may find licensing rules confusing



APC Charges Examples

Discipline	Average APC (USD)	Notes
Life Sciences	2,500 – 5,000	High-impact journals dominate APCs
Physical Sciences	1,500 – 3,000	Many journals offer waivers for early-career researchers
Social Sciences	1,000 – 2,500	OA adoption increasing, but APCs rising
Humanities	500 – 1,500	Diamond OA more common



Solution



1. Reduce APCs with waivers or subsidies.
2. Ensure strong peer-review to avoid predatory journals.
3. Use **DOAJ** to find trusted OA journals.
4. Use **Think. Check. Submit.** to choose reliable journals.
5. Develop sustainable funding models for OA.
6. Provide support for low-income researchers.
7. Simplify copyright and licensing information.

Open Access Trends in India (2024–2025)



Growing use of institutional repositories (IISc, IITs, CSIR labs)



Government push for openness policies encouraging open data, open publications and national research portals



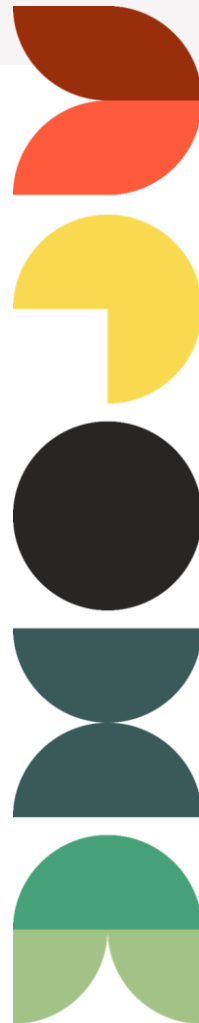
More fee waivers/discounts Indian authors from major publishers to improve affordability



Rise of Indian open-access journals use low-cost or “diamond OA” models (no APCs)

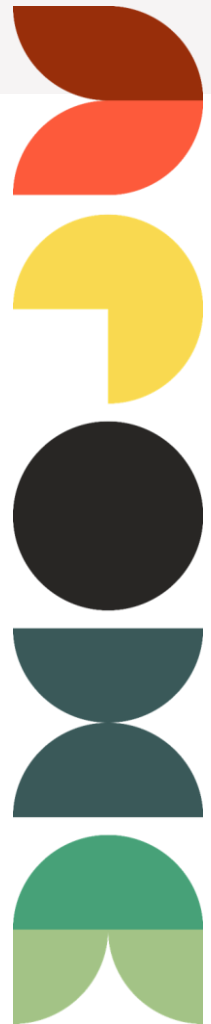


Increased participation in open-science platforms data sharing and collaborative research



Conclusion

- Open Access (OA) is growing with new models and technology.
- Diamond OA and transformative deals improve access.
- AI helps make research faster.
- Problems: high fees, low funding, predatory journals, poor infrastructure.
- OA needs fairness, sustainability, and good quality.
- Solutions: lower costs, better peer review, support local journals, improve infrastructure.
- Teamwork among publishers, funders, and researchers is important.
- Strong policies can make OA accessible for everyone.



Questions?

Vrushali Dandawate

DOAJ Senior Ambassador (Asia)

vrushali@doaj.org

