

# Open Access at Concordia: What it means to you and your research

## 1. What is Open Access?

Open-access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. What makes it possible is the internet and the consent of the author or copyright-holder. (Peter Suber, Open Access News)

## 2. How much does Open Access cost?

There are two kinds of Open Access:

- **The majority of publishers follow the GREEN Road to Open Access. They allow the deposit of peer-reviewed research articles into an Open Access repository such as Spectrum. It costs nothing, except a few minutes of time.**
  - Certain publishers (such as the Public Library of Science, aka 'PLOS') follow the **GOLD Road** to Open Access. Authors pay a fee to publish an article in a peer-reviewed Open Access journal that makes content freely available to everyone. It is hoped that researchers will consider this fee part of the research and publication process and use research grant funds to pay the fee. Check out SHERPA/RoMEO for more information: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>
- In fact, many major granting agencies (NIH, CIHR, NRC) have adopted Open Access policies in which all research funded by such an agency requires Open Access to an article in a freely available repository. Having an institutional repository will make compliance with these agencies easier.

## 3. Does participating in Open Access take time?

Researchers can deposit their own articles in a repository. Depositing an article in a repository can take as little as 20 minutes. Basic citation information is needed, and then the full text of the article should be uploaded to the repository.

## 4. Is Open Access compatible with peer review?

Open Access is a mechanism to increase the dissemination of peer-reviewed research. Authors continue to publish as they normally would, whether in subscription-based journals or open access journals.

- If the author publishes in a peer-reviewed subscription-based journal, he or she can make the article Open Access by depositing a copy of the post-print into an institutional repository. Most journal publishers allow this.
- If an author publishes in a peer-reviewed Open Access journal, the article will be available immediately on the web.

## 5. Does Open Access limit the choice of where to publish?

An Open Access repository is an additional venue for research articles. It complements rather than replaces current publishing practices. Authors are free to continue publishing in preferred journals. Once an article has been published, a copy of a post-print (final manuscript post-refereeing) can usually be deposited in an institutional repository such as Spectrum.

## 6. How does Open Access affect an article's citation rates?

Even though an article might be found through a repository, the citation to it should include the original publication information so it will be included in citation impact indexes. Studies in many fields show a correlation between open access and increase in citation-count ranging anywhere between 50% to 250%:

- Harnad, S.; Brody, T.; Vallieres, F.; Carr, L.; Hitchcock, T.; Gingras, Y.; Oppenheim, Cl; Haijem, C.; and E. R. Hilf (2008). [The Access/Impact Problem and the Green and Gold Roads to Open Access: An Update](#). *Serials Review*, 34 (1), 36-40.
- Willinsky, J. (2005). [The unacknowledged convergence of open source, open access, and open science](#). *First Monday*, Peer-Reviewed Journal on the Internet, 10 (8) August, 2005.

## 7. How does Open Access affect authors' copyright?

Research materials deposited in repositories retain their original copyright. Depending on the agreement with the original publisher, either an author or the publisher retains rights to an article. Authors can make use of the SHERPA/RoMEO website to ensure that they are permitted to post an article. An institutional repository wants only to preserve and make accessible works deposited: "Concordia University does not claim copyright over anything deposited in Spectrum."

## 8. Which publishers allow Open Access?

Many publishers of scholarly journals allow authors to make an article Open Access:

- **Canadian publishers** that allow articles to be deposited in an institutional repository:
  - Canadian Journal of Communication
  - NRC (National Research Council)
  - University of Toronto Press
- Major publishers that allow the **published PDF version** to be deposited in an institutional repository:
  - American Institute of Physics
  - American Mathematical Society
  - Berkeley Electronic Press
  - Cambridge University Press
  - Duke University Press
  - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
  - University of California Press
  - University of Chicago Press
- Major publishers that allow the **post-print** (final manuscript post-refereeing) to be deposited in an institutional repository (sometimes with an embargo):
  - American Association for the Advancement of Science (i.e. *Science*)
  - Blackwell Publishing
  - Elsevier
  - Institute of Physics
  - Nature Publishing Group
  - Oxford University Press
  - Royal Society of Chemistry
  - Sage Publications
  - Springer-Verlag
  - Taylor & Francis
  - Wiley-Blackwell

For a particular journal that you might be interested in, the SHERPA/RoMEO website (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>) has a comprehensive database of publishers' self-archiving policies.

## 9. What is Spectrum?

Spectrum is Concordia University's open access research repository that centralizes access and preserves the research created at Concordia. By depositing their work in Spectrum, Concordia scholars provide free and immediate access to their work and thus increase the visibility of both their own research and their university's intellectual output. Spectrum is an example of the **GREEN Road** to Open Access. See <http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/>

### What can be deposited in Spectrum?

Peer-reviewed research publications are obvious candidates for inclusion, as are the diverse research and creative outputs of the Concordia community. Spectrum is a showcase of the research and scholarship undertaken by members of the Concordia University community. Suitable material for deposit are: journal articles, books or book chapters, conference papers or presentations, working papers, technical reports. For other types of material, please contact: [spectrum@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:spectrum@alcor.concordia.ca)

### What about co-authors?

Depositing authors are responsible for ensuring that they have permission to deposit a research article in Spectrum, including ensuring that co-authors allow the deposit.

If you have any questions, please contact: [spectrum@alcor.concordia.ca](mailto:spectrum@alcor.concordia.ca)