

# Open Access Spectrum (OAS)

A guide to understanding the core components of OA

October 22, 2012

# OAS Cover



<http://www.plos.org/about/open-access/howopenisit/>

# OAS– Front Page

## Defining Open Access for Journals

Open Access is a means of disseminating scholarly research that breaks from the traditional subscription model of academic publishing. It has the potential to greatly accelerate the pace of scientific discovery, encourage innovation, and enrich education by reducing barriers to access. Open Access shifts the costs of publishing so that readers, practitioners, and researchers obtain content at no cost. However, Open Access is not as simple as “articles are free to all readers.” Open Access encompasses a range of components such as readership, reuse, copyright, posting, and machine readability. Within these areas, publishers and funding agencies have adopted many different policies, some of which are more open and some less open. In general, the more a journal’s policies codify immediate availability and reuse with as few restrictions as possible, the more open it is.

**Journals can be more open or less open, but their degree of openness is intrinsically independent from their:**

- Impact • Prestige • Quality of Peer Review
- Peer Review Methodology • Sustainability
- Effect on Tenure & Promotion • Article Quality

## How To Use This Guide

In 2002, the Budapest Open Access Initiative articulated the basic tenets of Open Access for the first time. Since then, thousands of journals have adopted policies that embrace some or all of the Open Access core components related to: readership, reuse, copyright, posting, and machine readability. However, not all Open Access is created equal. For example, a policy that allows anyone to read an article for free six months after its publication is more open than a policy that creates a twelve month embargo; it is also less open than a policy that allows for free reading immediately upon publication.

This guide will help you move beyond the seemingly simple question, “Is this journal open access?” and toward a more productive alternative, “HowOpenIsIt?”

### Use it to:

- Understand the components that define Open Access journals
- Learn what makes a journal more open vs. less open
- Make informed decisions about where to publish

## This Guide Is A Collaboration Among:

 **SPARC**  
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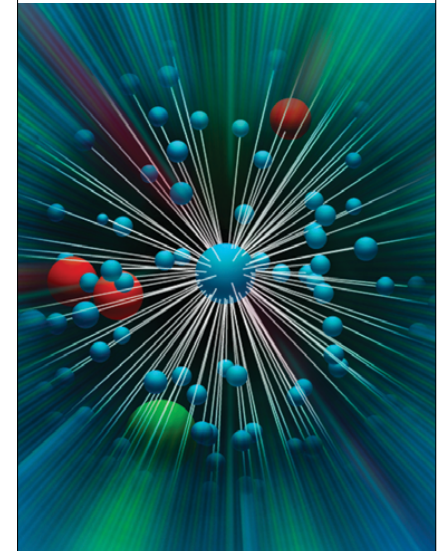
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## HowOpenIsIt?

O P E N   A C C E S S   S P E C T R U M



# Open Access Spectrum – HowOpenIsIt? Grid

Access	Reader Rights	Reuse Rights	Copyrights	Author Posting Rights	Automatic Posting	Machine Readability	Access
 OPEN ACCESS	Free readership rights to all articles immediately upon publication	Generous reuse & remixing rights (e.g., CC BY license)	Author holds copyright with no restrictions	Author may post any version to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) immediately upon publication	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, provided in community machine-readable standard formats through a community standard API or protocol	 OPEN ACCESS
	Free readership rights to all articles after an embargo of no more than 6 months	Reuse, remixing, & further building upon the work subject to certain restrictions & conditions (e.g., CC BY-NC & CC BY-SA licenses)	Author holds copyright, with some restrictions on author reuse of published version	Author may post final version of the peer-reviewed manuscript ("postprint") to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) within 6 months	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, may be crawled or accessed through a community standard API or protocol	
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# OAS – Independent of OA

**Journals can be more open or less open,  
But their degree of openness is intrinsically  
Independent from their:**

- \* Impact \* Prestige \* Quality of Peer Review
- \* Peer Review Methodology \* Sustainability
- \* Effect on Tenure & Promotion \* Article Quality

# HowOpenIsIt? – The PLOS grid

Access	Reader Rights	Reuse Rights	Copyrights	Author Posting Rights	Automatic Posting	Machine Readability	Access
OPEN ACCESS	Free readership rights to all articles immediately upon publication	Generous reuse & remixing rights (e.g., CC BY license)	Author holds copyright with no restrictions	Author may post any version to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) immediately upon publication	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, provided in community machine-readable standard formats through a community standard API or protocol	OPEN ACCESS
	Free readership rights to all articles after an embargo of no more than 6 months	Reuse, remixing, & further building upon the work subject to certain restrictions & conditions (e.g., CC BY-NC & CC BY-SA licenses)	Author holds copyright, with some restrictions on author reuse of published version	Author may post final version of the peer-reviewed manuscript ("postprint") to any repository or website	Journals make copies of articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central) within 6 months	Article full text, metadata, citations, & data, including supplementary data, may be crawled or accessed through a community standard API or protocol	
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# HowOpenIsIt? Open Access Spectrum

## Assess Where You Are On the Grid

Access	Reader Rights	Reuse Rights	Copyrights	Author Posting Rights	Automatic Posting	Machine Readability	Access
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