Lib4RI

Green, Gold, now Diamond – the evolution of Open Access publishing

Diamond Open Access is a model of scholarly publication that charges no fees to authors, readers, or their institutions. Diamond Open Access journals are owned and controlled by the scholarly communities.

The different flavors of Open Access publishing

Open Access (OA) publishing has become an important aspect of academic publishing and many researchers are familiar with three varieties of it: Green OA, Gold OA, and hybrid OA. As a refresher, **Green OA** describes self-archiving of a publication on an institutional repository, such as DORA. Often, this is done for the accepted version of a manuscript (see also here: Green Open Access | Lib4RI). In contrast, **Gold OA** is the case when the published, journal-edited version of a manuscript is directly released as OA to the public under an open license. Typically, authors enable this by paying the article processing charge (APC). **Hybrid OA** is the case for journals that are financed by a combination of APCs and subscription fees.

These pathways to OA have been successful in improving the access to publications. For example, up to 90% of journal articles published by researchers at the four research institutes in recent years are OA. However, the commercial publishing industry has fully embraced OA publishing and benefits from high fees for Gold OA articles and Read & Publishing Agreements. The profits made by for-profit publishers from these fees are not necessarily re-invested to develop scholarly publishing but go instead to external stakeholders. In parallel, the publication industry underwent a concentration process with big publishers publishing an increasing share of the number of published articles. This gives a few for-profit publishers even more power and control over the work of scientists. Diamond OA (sometimes also called Platinum OA) attempts to address some of these developments.

What is Diamond Open Access?

Diamond OA is a model of scholarly publication that charges no fees to authors, readers, or their institutions; Diamond OA journals are owned and controlled by the scholarly communities (see here for a detailed definition). This model of scholarly publication is made possible by subsidies from third parties, such as funding agencies, consortia, research institutions or their libraries. Diamond OA is not a new or alternative model of scholarly publishing. It is the way scientists have published for the longest time in the history of science. As a community-driven model, Diamond OA prioritizes the research

community's needs over commercial interests. Reclaiming the ownership of scholarly publishing leads to more reasonable and stable pricing structures that align with community values.

Flavors of Open Access (OA) publishing	
Green OA	Self-archived version of article is OA
Gold OA	Article is OA, typically due to article processing charge (APC) paid by authors
Hybrid OA	Journal is financed by both APCs and subscription fees
Diamond OA	OA publishing without costs for the authors or readers

The landscape of Diamond Open Access journals

The landscape of Diamond OA journals consists of a wide range of relatively small journals serving diverse communities. An extensive study of Diamond journals estimated that there are between 17'000 and 29'000 Diamond OA journals worldwide, which account for 8-9% of scholarly articles produced. Starting mid-2025, the Diamond Discovery Hub will provide a comprehensive registry of institutionally published and scholar-led OA Journals. If you are interested in exploring Diamond OA journals right now, you can use the Directory of Open Access Journals. To locate them in the database, refine your search results to journals 'without fees'. Be aware that this search strategy will result in many journals not owned by not-for-profit organizations and, thus, do not comply with an important criterion of Diamond OA. In fact, a temporary waiver of APCs (thereby making the journal Diamond OA) is a common marketing strategy by for-profit publishers. If you are interested in "local" Diamond journals, have a look at the list of journals established as part of the PLATO project. Lib4RI supports community-led, non-profit initiatives that offer an alternative to for-profit publishers. Our support extends to Diamond OA journals and platforms, including:

◦ SciPost: a non-profit, scholar-led, Diamond OA platform focused on scientific publishing.
◦ Aerosol Research: a Diamond OA journal "dedicated to the publication and public discussion of high-quality studies investigating aerosols".
◦ SCOAP[3]: SCOAP[3] has converted key journals in the field of High-Energy Physics to Open Access and continues to support OA publishing in these journals at no cost for authors. Note, however, that these journals are still commercially owned.

For more information about Open Access publishing, check out our website, use our Search Tool to see if there is support publishing OA in your journal of choice, or reach out to us at openaccess@lib4ri.ch.

Highlighted upcoming trainings

Lib4RI spring training 2025: Searching & Managing Scientific Information

Spring is at our doorsteps and so is our biannual training series «Searching & Managing Scientific Information». All modules can be booked individually and are open to all members of the four research institutes. Make sure to have a look at the new modules "Make your life easier with Git" and "AI in Research & Scientific Writing".

There are course offers at all main locations of the four research institutes from March to June 2025. Each of the eleven modules can be booked individually. PhD students can receive a recommendation for one ECTS point after participating in four courses throughout their studies. Check out the modules:

1. «Searching Scientific Information»
2. «Scientific Publishing – From Writing to Sharing»
3. «Open Access & Copyright»
4a. «Literature Management with Endnote»
4b. «Literature Management with Zotero»
5. «Getting Started with LaTeX»
6. «Work on Your Own Project»
7a. «Research Data Management – The Basics»
7b. «Make Your Life Easier with Git»
8a. «AI Made Easy: A Beginner's Toolkit for Streamlining Your Projects»
8b. «AI in Research & Scientific Writing»

Learn more here.

Library News

Data stewardship spring community event and network

Do you work in the areas of research data management, data stewardship, and/or open science? Are you responsible for managing data in line with FAIR principles? If so, we invite you to join the ETH Domain Data Stewardship Network (DSN). Read more here.

Webinar: scite.ai - AI research assistant & citation database

Please join our 1h researchers' masterclass webinar on our newly subscribed AI research assistant and citation database scite.ai. scite.ai AI assistant provides users with GPT responses based on full-text scientific publications and provides the relevant citations. Read more here.
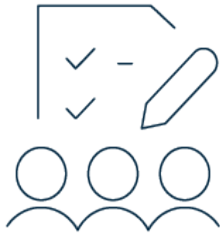
Love Data Week: Recordings available

In 2025, Lib4RI contributed five online coffee lectures to the Swiss schedule of the Love Data Week. Our focal topic was tools which support organizing, analysing and publishing your data in a clean and reproducible manner. Recordings are now available.

Negotiations with Wiley

Negotiations with Wiley are still ongoing, and unfortunately, we do not have an update at present. We will continue to keep you informed. For more information, see our previous news post here.

Did you know ...?

... Lib4RI offers group trainings on demand?

Do you have new hires? Or do you want to get updated on the latest developments in a certain topic? Arrange a workshop with us! We are happy to visit your group or department and offer a workshop tailored to your needs. This service is free and open to all members of the four research institutes Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL. Get inspiration on topics from our website and don't hesitate to contact us!

Source: lib4ri.ch

Beyond the Library

Publisher news / Subscription rather than ownership?

Clarivate announced that it would be phasing out of selling print books and changing to a «subscription-based strategy» for all eBooks and digital collections. Read about the change and a librarian's opinion on how this could adversely affect libraries here.

Open Science / Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)

swissunivsities recently approved their CoARA Action Plan to help improve research assessment metrics as part of the «Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment». Check out the other Swiss organizations, including WSL, that have signed. Learn more about CoARA here.

Open Data / Including data consumers

Open Data is mostly seen from the perspective of data producers. In a blog post, authors from the Leiden Madtrics argue to also include the view of the data consumers to foster data re-use. Read more here.

Communication / Impact Narrative Tool

Research funders increasingly demand clear and quantifiable evidence to justify resources spent

Publication integrity / Paper-mill fingerprints

Retraction Watch recently published a post on a nonsensical phrase ("vegetative electron microscopy") that was published in several peer-reviewed articles in various journals. These strange phrases are called «fingerprints» and indicate paper-mill involvement. While Elsevier defended the phrase, analysts point out the origin of the phrase could be from a machine-read paper. Read more here, or more on strange phrases in academic papers here.

Open Science / Literature recommendations

PLOS recently published an article in their series «Ten Simple Rules». Their newest article covers good practices for sharing models. Read more here. We highly recommend signing up for Helmholtz Open Science newsletter here if you want additional open science literature recommendations.

Copyright / Author rights retention

Who owns the rights to a scientific manuscript - the author/institution or the publisher? Increasingly, funders require all published work to be open access, expanding access to science (e.g., cOAlition S). However, this has led to

and allocated. The Impact Narrative Tool is an instrument designed to help researchers and organizations effectively convey the story of their impact journey. Read more here.

pushback from many publishers. More recently, universities in the UK and the US are approaching it from an institutional standpoint. Leeds Beckett University has adopted a rights retention scheme at their university and highlighted the publishers' response to their program. Read more here.

Lib4RI - Library for the Research Institutes within the ETH Domain: Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

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