Open Access: Myths and Misconceptions in Scholarship and Publishing

Renee Wilmeth, STTI Publisher and Kimberly Thompson, MLS, STTI Repository Manager
Focus/Objectives

• To provide foundational information on Open Access (OA) – Definitions, Strategies

• To clarify common misconceptions associated with OA – FAQs and Mythbusting

• To provide differing perspectives from scholars, publishers, librarians and repository advocates.
Overall Goal

To give you the information from both sides so you can form your own opinions and participate in the conversation about Open Access.

Lend your voice!
For example...

- Librarians and Publishers use terms differently:
  “Curate”
  “Publish”
  “Journals”

And a couple of definitions: “pre-print”
“post-print”
What is the Open Access movement?

- “Pure” Open Access (OA): To disseminate scholarly research output with little or no barriers to access, at no cost to users or authors.
- Lots of definitions/methods – some “pure.” Some “watered down.”
  - Someone has to incur the cost – librarian, university, publisher, or author
  - Many different flavors, colors, and thresholds for pain
Beginning of the movement

• There are three significant public declarations on Open Access (OA):
  – the Budapest Open Access Initiative (February 2002),
  – the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing (June 2003), and
  – the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (October 2003).
Growth and Confusion

• OA continues to gain momentum…
• However, with no governing body or formal structure…
• Multiple definitions and interpretations.
• Result: Lots of bias and confusion on the part of authors, scholars, publishers, and librarians.
Peter Suber’s Definition of OA

• Peter Suber has been called the “leader of a leaderless revolution.”*

• Peter’s definition: Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

Who is Peter Suber?

• Independent policy strategist for open access to scientific and scholarly research literature.
• Ph.D. in philosophy, J.D., both from Northwestern University.
• Director, Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication and the Harvard Open Access Project.
• Senior Researcher, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC).
• Drafted the (Budapest) Manifesto.
Hitting the Road
The Routes to OA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Route</th>
<th>The author can self-archive at the time of submission of the publication whether the publication is grey literature, a peer-reviewed journal publication, a peer-reviewed conference proceedings paper or a monograph</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden Route</td>
<td>The author or author institution can pay a fee to the publisher at publication time, the publisher thereafter making the material available ‘free’ at the point of access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preprints</td>
<td>Preprints are articles that are pre-peer-review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postprints</td>
<td>Postprints are articles that are post-peer-review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eprints</td>
<td>eprints can be either preprints or postprints but in electronic form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Literature</td>
<td>White literature is peer-reviewed, published articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey Literature</td>
<td>Grey literature is preprints or internal ‘know-how’ material</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Type – Green Road

• AKA “Self-archiving”: Authors deposit their work in an institutional/academic and/or subject-based OA full text repository.
  – Scholarly/institutional repositories are designed to hold the research output of an academic institution’s faculty members and/or student body.
  – Subject-based repositories are designed to hold the research output of a profession.
  – All provide an alternative publishing venue for sharing research within a campus, organization, profession, and/or the world.
Green Road Part II

- Offers free and immediate access.
- No peer review or editor’s decision* 
  *Usually
- Doesn’t usually include published materials but can include pre-publication/peer-reviewed versions (“pre-prints/post-prints”)
- Author retains copyright and/or grants limited-use license.
- Includes Gov’t mandated embargos (NIH) and publisher required delayed access.
A note about Grey Road

Repositories may and should include items such as:

- conference papers,
- unpublished articles,
- theses,
- dissertations,
- conference materials,
- committee reports,
- datasets,
- faculty created learning objects, and
- unpublished research papers.
Examples of OA repositories

Repositories at academic institutions

- DSpace@MIT  [http://dspace.mit.edu/](http://dspace.mit.edu/)
- DASH (Digital Access to Scholarship at Harvard)  [http://dash.harvard.edu/](http://dash.harvard.edu/)
- ERA (Edinburgh Research Archive)  [https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/](https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/)
- PURR (Purdue University Research Repository)  [https://purr.purdue.edu/](https://purr.purdue.edu/)
- University of Western Australia  [http://www.is.uwa.edu.au/repository](http://www.is.uwa.edu.au/repository)
Examples of OA repositories

- Subject-based/disciplinary repositories
  - Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository
    http://www.nursinglibrary.org/vhl/ (solely devoted to nursing – peer-review component)
  - Earth-prints Repository (collects earth sciences materials)
    http://www.earth-prints.org/
Examples of OA repositories

Other repositories (pre-print; post-print; not self-archiving)

- PubMed Central (biomedical & life science journal literature)
  - PubMed Central works directly with publishers to gain access to post-print materials
- Policy Archive (collects public policy research from organizations)
- ArXiv (collects articles from areas of physics, mathematics, computer science, etc. – maintained by Cornell University Library)
Type – Gold Road

- OA/Free Access funded by article processing charges (APCs) paid by authors or on behalf of authors by universities or funding institutions.
- More common outside the US where grants often include APCs.
- Author retains copyright; Grants publisher license.
- Articles must be peer-reviewed and accepted by a journal editor (AKA “White Literature”)
  - OA Journals
  - Hybrid Journals
Types of OA Journals

• Open Access Journal: after paper is peer-reviewed and accepted, author pays (APC) so article can be full OA.

Caution: Beware “Open Journals” who will print anything; Author pays; full OA, but no editor or curation!

• Hybrid – Papers are peer-reviewed and accepted; published in the traditional way – Author has option to pay APC for OA.
Open Access Publishing Options

9,957 Open Access Journals from 123 Countries

- Megajournals: PlosOne
- Wide range of APCs
- A few are “free access” with no APC. Do your research? Who’s paying the bills?
- Check for editorial boards, editors, and reviewers in your field
- Reputation matters, especially in megajournals publishing in all disciplines at once!
Two components of Open Access

• Gratis: No-cost online access.

• Libre: In addition to free access, some if not all permission barriers for re-use are removed.
  – Use licenses such as Creative Commons Licenses assist authors in choosing how to share their work with the public.
Example of a Use License

Example of a Creative Commons License selection screen:

Use licenses do not pertain to copyright.

Creative Commons License Icon that attaches to a repository submission:
So what’s the Big Deal?

• All information wants to be free, right?
• The government/taxes already funded my research. Why should publishers benefit?
• Journal content is too expensive! Publishers make so much money!
• Who needs to pay for print? Online publishing should be free! The Internet is free!
• Library budgets are slim. We need more free content!
Point: It’s a Balancing Act

• Journals “curate” content. Editors and credibility matters.

• Journals/Publishers funnel revenue back to societies and researchers. (Many scholarly societies make money from journals, not just publishers.)

• Repositories are great, but can create more challenges for researchers.
Counterpoint: OA repositories have a place in the system of scholarly output

• Access = Impact
  – Evidence has shown that work published in open-access repositories can gain up to 300% more citations than research published in journals that limit access through paid subscriptions.*

• Repositories don’t replace journals and publishers, they supplement them. Still provide quality.
  – Just because an item is not published in a traditional scholarly journal does not mean that it is not good science deserving to be shared.

• More than 24,000 scholarly journals. No one institution/consortium can afford to subscribe to them all!

Open Access Mythbusting
Myth #1

• **Myth**: Online publishing is free! Papers published in online journals should be free!

• **Fact**: There is no such thing as “free.”
  
  – Researcher must have available funds to pursue their investigations.
  
  – Digital publishing and repositories have costs:
    • Salaries – staff, editorial team, reviewers
    • Website development
    • Software/infrastructure costs
    • Editors don’t work for free
Myth #2

• **Myth:** Repositories are the eBay of the research world. Journals are the only credible way to disseminate research material.

• **Fact:** Institutional and subject-based repositories offer quality alternative OA publishing venues.
  
  – The Virginia Henderson Global Nursing e-Repository offers nurses a peer review process and strict author guidelines.
  
  – SciX offers a new business model for scientific publishing.
Myth #3

• **Myth:** Aren’t OA journals lower in quality than reputable ranked journals?

• **Fact:** Many OA journals are reputable, ranked journals. Regardless of model, OA journals (and repositories for that matter) are a product of their:
  – Authors
  – Reviewers
  – Editorial staff
  – Acceptance policies
  – Focus, relevance, credibility

NOT their dissemination model.
Myth #4

**Myth:** OA repositories will drive journals out of business.

**Fact:** There is room for all in the OA sandbox.

- Journals offer a proven, quality-controlled method for dissemination, ranked by impact factors, offering tenure/publishing opportunities.
- Repositories compliment journals by allowing authors to submit pre and post-print versions of published articles and non-traditional items such as datasets, committee reports, etc.
- OA repositories offer increased visibility. Everyone wins!
- Some OA repositories (such as STTI’s Henderson Repository offer peer review)
- Journals have limited publishing space. Everyone wins!
Myth #5

• **Myth:** Most repositories charge author fees/processing charges, right?

• **Fact:** In the US, it’s not common for OA repositories to charge a “deposit” or author fee. It is more common in other countries.

  - Look under the submission/author guidelines for more information.
Myth #6

• **Myth:** You aren’t allowed to publish an item in a traditional journal and deposit it into a repository.

• **Fact:** Most publishers have standard policies for repository self-archiving. The SHERPA/RoMEO database offers authors a chance to look at individual publisher/journal policies on self-archiving.

  – [http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/)
SHERPA/RoMEO simple search

- Authors may search by publisher name or journal title.

Use this site to find a summary of permissions that are normally given as part of each publisher's copyright transfer agreement.
SHERPA/RoMEO sample search result

Search - Publisher copyright policies & self-archiving

One publisher found when searched for: Publisher: Wiley and Blackwell

Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell, United States
Journals: (~1510 journals) (including journals with special policies) - involving 620 other organisations
RoMEO: This is a RoMEO yellow publisher
Copyright: Author Rights and Repositories - Copyright FAQs - Open Access Policy - Funding Agency Policies - Example CTA (pdf)
Updated: 25-Apr-2013

Although this publisher has default policies, individual journals may have special permissions, especially if they involve other organisations or have paid open access options. Always run a journal title or ISSN search to check.

Search again?

○ Journal titles or ISSNs  ○ Publisher names
Wiley Blackwell
 ○ Exact phrase only  ○ All keywords  ○ Any

Advanced Search  Search  Reset

RoMEO Colour | Archiving policy
--- | ---
Green | Can archive pre-print and post-print or publisher’s version/PDF
Blue | Can archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing) or publisher's version/PDF
Yellow | Can archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
White | Archiving not formally supported

More on colours and restrictions

or | View all publishers

Use this site to find a summary of permissions that are normally given as part of each publisher’s copyright transfer agreement.
Myth 7

**Myth:** If all research was published OA, all libraries could have it, instead of paying exorbitant subscription fees to publishers for journals! Wouldn’t that be great?!

**Fact:** There are costs associated with all types of publishing whether virtual or traditional print. OA is an alternative to traditional publishing, not a replacement. There is value in the “curation” of the content for journals which helps recognize the most important new research. If publishers went away tomorrow, it would create a whole host of other challenges in academe.
What the future holds

• OA is here to stay, but more needs to be done to ensure that policies and controls are implemented in a standardized fashion.

• Global OA education needs to be standardized and implemented to avoid confusion and misconceptions which lead to nonparticipation.
What the Future Holds Pt II

• Watermark technologies to track errata, retractions, and data via DOIs and other identifiers in repositories.
• Government mandate and NSF status?
• Open, un-curated journals? Lots of debate!
Questions?
Helpful resources:

- Creative Commons [http://creativecommons.org/](http://creativecommons.org/)
- *Open Access, by Peter Suber* [http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/open-access](http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/open-access)
- Peter Suber’s homepage [http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/~psuber/wiki/Peter_Suber](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/~psuber/wiki/Peter_Suber)
Bibliography


