

# Open Access

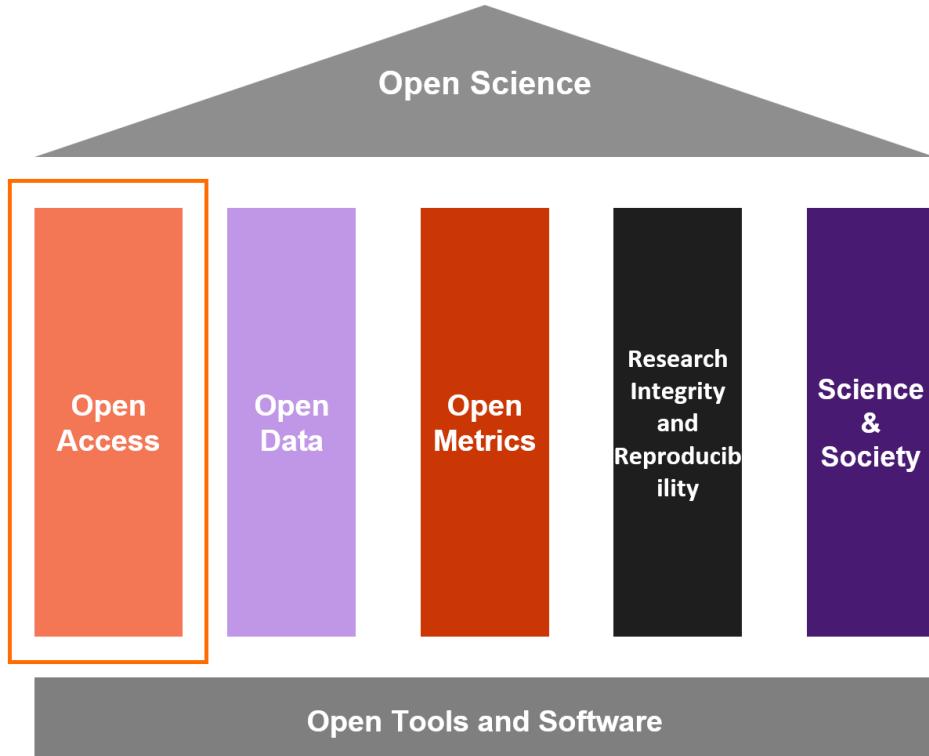
January 2026

Alison Ferrett, Customer Success  
Manager



Advancing human progress together

- Open science describes a way of working which makes research more inclusive, more collaborative, and more transparent.
- Elsevier partners with the research community to enable open science.
- We believe open science can benefit research and society and drive research performance.



# Is open access the same as open science?

- Open science is a **set of principles** used to conduct, publish and disseminate research in a collaborative, inclusive and transparent way. In other words, it is a way of working that promotes openness
- Publishing gold open access (using the pay-to-publish model) or making an article openly available through other means are some but not all of the ways to advance open science.
- Some examples of other elements of open science, distinct from open access, are: [open data](#), open methods, [research integrity](#), as well as efforts to [bring science into society](#).

# Open access is enabled by...



## Funders

Establishing open access policies and mandates



## Institutions

Creating open access policies and repositories



## Researchers

Being encouraged to publish research output open access



## Publishers

Implementing open access options for researchers



## Readers

Looking for additional ways to read research content



## Governments

Deciding on open access policies and mandates

# Offering 3,000 journals to the research communities



## Strengthening confidence through trusted quality

We receive around 3.5 million research papers from authors, annually. Whether published open access or via subscription model, they are rigorously reviewed by our in-house editorial teams in collaboration with 36,000 editors and 1.7 million expert reviewers globally.

The result is over 720,000 articles in 2024 enhanced, indexed, certified, and promoted following peer review. With the assistance provided to authors, this ensures the integrity of research and the scientific record. Articles in our journals account for over 17% of global research output and 29% of global citations, reinforcing our focus on quality and ensuring you can advance your field of science with confidence.

[Learn how Elsevier safeguards research integrity >](#)

## Enabling a transition to open access

To support every researcher in sharing their work in the way that best suits them, nearly all of Elsevier's over 3,000 journals enable open access publishing. More than 890 of these being fully open access. In 2024, Elsevier published over 250,000 open access articles.

Our world-leading research platforms make available 3.7 million validated open access articles, and we support more than 3,600 institutions with open access agreements.

[Publish open access with us >](#)

[Learn the basics of open access >](#)



# Defining open access models

Open access models represent a combination of three aspects necessary to publishing quality research:

1. How publishing services can be adequately funded
2. How and when readers can access articles and for how long
3. How published articles can be further distributed or used

Elsevier provides both the gold open access model and green open access route, derived from the subscription model, to enable authors to make their manuscripts available open access.

# Different shades of open access

**Gold:** published under a CC license with publication costs covered by an Article Processing Charge (APC) either as Gold in full open access journals or Gold in hybrid journals.

**Green:** archived accepted manuscript of articles published under the subscription model, typically after a 6-24 months embargo period.

**Bronze:** publicly available to read without a CC license (e.g., Open Archives)

**Platinum/Diamond/Subsidised:** published under a CC license with publication costs typically covered by a third party (e.g., the society, the university etc.) behind the journal.

# Other terms for understanding the open access landscape

## Article Publishing Charges (APCs)

Irrespective of the publishing model chosen by the author, our goal is to ensure articles are published as quickly as possible, subject to appropriate quality controls, and widely disseminated.

Where an author has chosen to publish open access, which typically involves the payment of an article publishing charge (APC) by the author, their institution or funding body, we make their article freely available immediately upon publication on ScienceDirect in perpetuity with the author's chosen user license attached to it.

Elsevier's APCs are set on a per journal basis, fees range between approximately \$200 and \$11,400 US Dollars, excluding tax, with prices clearly displayed on our [APC price list](#) and on journal homepages.

Adjustments in Elsevier's APCs are under regular review and are subject to change. We set APCs based on the following criteria which are applied to open access articles only:

- Journal quality (as measured by journal quality Field Weighted Citation Impact Tier);
- The journal's editorial and technical processes;
- Competitive considerations;
- Market conditions;
- Other revenue streams associated with the journal.

A small percentage of titles may support more than one APC, for example when a journal supports one or more article types that require different APCs.

We do not vary the APC prices for our proprietary journals based on the user license chosen by the author. However, we also publish journals on behalf of learned societies or other third parties that reserve the right to determine their own prices and pricing policies. Any deviations in pricing from Elsevier's standard APC price list per journal will be clearly displayed on the journal's homepage.

# Publishing models

There are two main routes for publishers to recoup the costs of publishing:

Pay to Read and Pay to Publish

## Pay to read - subscription model

Under the pay-to-read model, the **cost of publication is covered by readers**, typically in the form of subscriptions. This way, the cost of publishing articles is spread across typically thousands of institutional and individual subscribers, who pay to receive access.



Readers pay to receive access to research content published around the world

# Publishing models

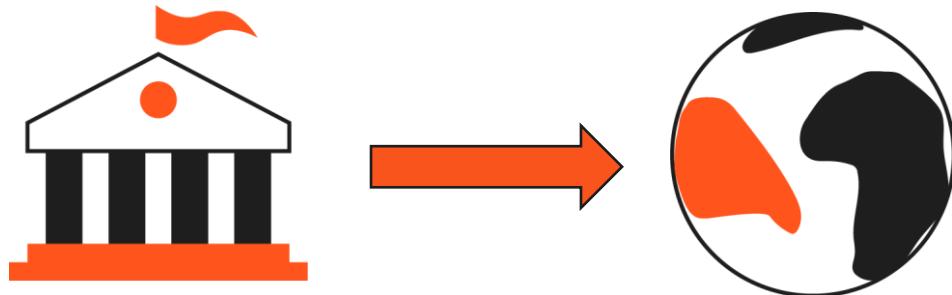
## Pay to publish (The Gold Open Access Model)

In the case of Pay to Publish, **individuals or institutions** **pay an Article Publication Charge (APC)** upfront to cover the cost of publishing. These articles are made immediately and permanently available to the rest of the world on publication. **Readers do not pay** a subscription to access these articles.



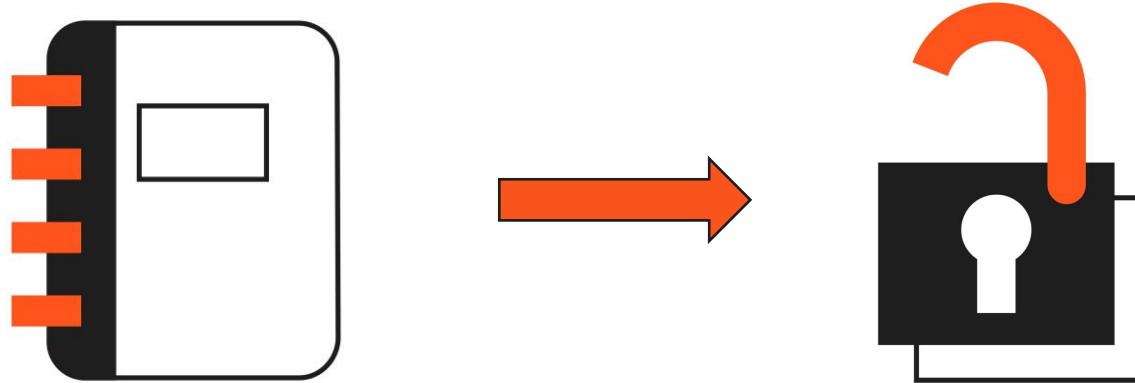
### Pay to publish

Individuals cover publication costs to broadcast their own article to the rest of the world



# What is a transformative agreement?

The underlying principle is to 'transform' subscription spend to support OA publishing. Particularly popular in Europe as a way of driving immediate open access.



# Elsevier open access agreements

More than **3000 institutions** around the world are now able to publish open access through one of our transformational agreements.

<https://www.elsevier.com/open-access/agreements>



# Copyright licenses at Elsevier

Authors publishing gold open access have a choice between two Creative Commons (CC) licenses: CC-BY and CC-BY-NC-ND. A license tells readers what they can and can't do with your article and ensures authors get credit for their work.

## CC-BY:

Attribution



This license lets others **distribute**, **remix**, **adapt**, and **build upon** your work, even commercially, as long as they **credit** you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of all the CC licenses. Recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials.

## CC-BY-NC-ND:

Attribution-  
NonCommercial-  
NoDerivs



This license is the most restrictive of the CC licenses, only allowing others to **download** your works and **share** them with others as long as they **credit** you, but they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.

Source: creative commons

# Useful links

[Open access agreement useful resources](#)

[Open access agreements by region](#)

[Elsevier/CLC Open Access Agreement Page](#)

[Elsevier and CLC Agreement – Journals Included](#)

[Science Direct.Com](#) and [Science Direct Journals and Books](#)

[Journal Finder tool](#)

[Author Journey Video](#)

---

ELSEVIER