

Terms Used in Open Access Publishing

Open access (OA) publishing is a movement that seeks to replace traditional subscription-based business models with free, online access to scholarly research articles, typically with few usage restrictions. For a full introduction, see [Peter Suber's overview](#). For specifics about IEEE's OA activities, see Publication VP Gianluca Setti's [article in The Institute](#), and blogger Richard Poynder's [interview with Anthony Durniak](#), Staff Executive - Publications. The [IEEE Open web site](#) has more details. Below are some terms commonly used to describe different OA types.

Type	Description	Business Model
Gold Open Access	Gold OA journals provide users with free access to research articles. In many cases, authors will retain copyright in an OA article, while authorizing reuse of the article through a Creative Commons license . In this and all types of OA, the benefit to the author is assumed to be that his or her work becomes more discoverable and citable.	Publishing costs are supported by revenue other than subscriptions, e.g., grants, institutional sponsorship or advertising. A common model supports publication through an article processing charge (APC) paid by the author or the author's funding source.
Hybrid Open Access	A hybrid OA journal publishes many or most articles using a traditional subscription model. However, an individual author may pay an APC to make the final published version of the article freely available to all users. Depending on the journal, a Creative Commons license may be used with these OA articles.	This model combines subscription income with APCs to support publication costs.
Delayed Open Access	Upon publication, an article is made available only to paid subscribers for a defined period (often six to 12 months). After this time, the final published article becomes freely available to all users.	This model assumes that subscription revenue earned in the initial paywall period supports costs of publication.
Green Open Access	This term refers to the practice of authors' self-archiving their articles in a publicly accessible institutional repository. The repository could be operated by the author's employer or a funding agency (e.g., the National Institutes of Health's PubMed Central). Self-archiving is often required by authors' funding agencies, including governments. Increasingly, universities are requiring their faculty to deposit their own versions of their articles in institutional repositories. A not-for-profit organization called SHERPA-RoMEO maintains a database of publisher policies that enable green OA.	Green OA is not a business model, as no revenue is associated with author self-archiving. In most cases, the publisher holds copyright in the article and offers the final published version in a subscriber-supported publication. The author is permitted to archive a preprint (the version before peer review) or a postprint (the author's version incorporating peer review comments).