

Open *Access*

**Open the channels of communication
in your field**

Access scientific and scholarly research

- **online**
- **free of charge**
- **free of licensing restrictions**

Association of College and Research Libraries

www.ala.org/acrl

Association of Research Libraries

www.arl.org

SPARC

www.arl.org/sparc

SPARC Europe

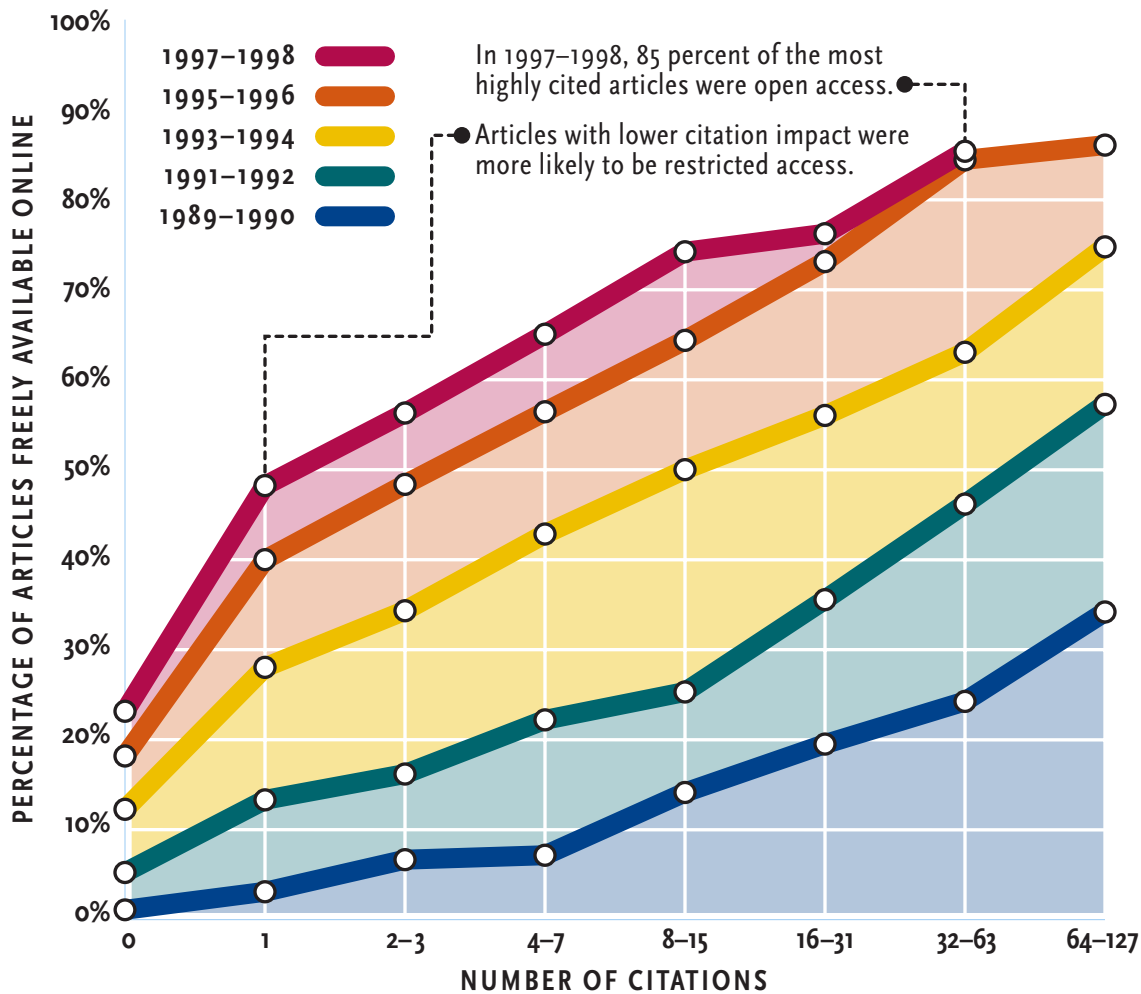
www.sparceurope.org

Open *Access*

Open access *will* accelerate research.

- You know first-hand that scientists and scholars are not paid for their journal articles. In most cases, you must transfer copyright to a journal before it will publish your work. While you might receive royalties for your books and software, your compensation for journal articles is more abstract: your field advances and your career develops.
- If you're giving up your royalties and intellectual property rights, shouldn't readers be the beneficiaries? By removing price and permission barriers, open access makes your work easier to use. Open access serves your interests as the author and the interests of all potential readers.
- In the age of print, open access was physically and economically impossible. But thanks to the Internet, it's an emerging reality. Now, the tradition of producing journal articles without expectation of payment combined with electronic publishing offers an unprecedented public good: the free online availability of peer-reviewed scientific and scholarly journal articles.
- Think about what this kind of distribution will mean for the enlargement of your audience, the widespread sharing of knowledge, and the acceleration of research. Open-access archives and journals are both practical and lawful. Implementations around the world are proving that they surpass traditional subscription-based journals in their cost-effectiveness and service to science and scholarship.
- **Join the growing, worldwide movement to bring the benefits of open access to all.**

Open access *increases* research impact.



Steve Lawrence, a scientist at NEC Research Institute, analyzed nearly 120,000 computer science articles cited in a standard disciplinary bibliography. When he looked at articles with successively higher levels of impact or citations, he found successively higher percentages of open-access articles, and vice versa. He found the strength of this correlation steadily increased over a decade.

SOURCE: Steve Lawrence, "Online or Invisible?" *Nature*, Vol. 411, No. 6837, p. 521, 2001.
<http://www.neci.nec.com/~lawrence/papers/online-nature01/>

Open Access

Why should you *care* about open access?

- **As an author**

You will have a larger potential audience than any subscriber-restricted journal can give you, even the most prestigious. Open access can increase the impact of your work, shorten the delay between acceptance and publication, and make your articles more effective by making them easier to find and use. Your work will be visible to every search and retrieval tool.

- **As a reader**

You will have free online access to the literature necessary for your research.

- **As a teacher**

You will know that your students have convenient access to the information they need. With open-access literature, the author or copyright holder has given permission in advance for making and distributing copies. No more delays, doubts, or fees. No more fair-use judgment calls, fear of liability, and painful decisions to err on the side of caution and non-use.

- **As a scientist or scholar**

You will be coming to grips with a journal publishing system that is no longer sustainable. Despite the opportunity for expanded global sharing of knowledge brought by the Internet, prices of many journals have spiraled out of control and libraries have had no choice but to cancel subscriptions, defer new subscriptions, and cut into their book budgets. There are many potential solutions to this crisis, but open access is the most effective. And it is within the reach of scientists and scholars.

How can you *provide* open access to your work?

- Submit your work to open-access journals. There are over 1000 peer-reviewed journals listed in the *Directory of Open Access Journals* (www.doaj.org), and new journals appear online every month.
- Deposit your preprints in an open digital archive hosted by your institution or discipline. For a list, see www.arl.org/sparc/repos. If your publisher permits it, deposit your postprint (the revised version, as published in the journal) in an open archive.
- If you submit your work to a subscription-based journal, retain your rights — and the rights of your readers — by attaching the SPARC “author’s addendum” (www.arl.org/sparc/author) to the publisher’s copyright form. If the journal will not consent to this, be persistent. The discussion will help the publisher understand what matters to authors. Make sure you can put the postprint on your personal website — or better yet, in an open digital archive hosted by your institution or discipline.
- If you submit your work to a subscription-based journal, offer to pay the costs of providing open online access. A growing number of journals accept this as a way to experiment with the methods and economics of open-access publishing. Other journals are waiting to be asked.

Open *Access*

How can you *help* the cause of open access?

- If your institution or discipline doesn't already host an open digital archive, help launch one. Open-source software exists to help you create and maintain them.
- Help launch an open-access journal in your field. Open-source journal management software can automate clerical tasks and keep costs down.
- Serve on the editorial board or referee papers for an open-access journal.
- When sitting on grant-review panels or hiring, tenure, or promotion committees, give due weight to peer-reviewed publications regardless of their price or medium. And don't rely only on prestige or impact factor — this discriminates against new journals that may be of high quality.
- Help your professional associations understand open access. Serve on their committees and governing boards, and write opinion pieces for their newsletters. Nudge them into adopting open access for their own journals and endorsing open access for other journals in the field.
- If you are a journal editor, encourage your publisher to adopt an open-access business model. If the publisher is unwilling and pursues policies that restrict access, consider following the example of journals in disciplines such as biology and mathematics by “declaring independence.” Along with the rest of your editorial board, resign from the journal and launch a new, open-access journal to serve the same niche. Organizations such as SPARC can aid you in this transition.
- Help your library make intelligent decisions about subscriptions and cancellations by having a discussion about the real value of scholarly journals. Librarians often feel pressured to take actions that perpetuate the pricing crisis by subscribing to journals whose price may not be a true reflection of their size, quality, impact, or usage.
- Educate colleagues and the next generation of scientists and scholars. You can prevent damaging myths or alarmist claims about open access from circulating without challenge. Open access is compatible with peer review, copyright, and career advancement.

Open Access

Open access facts

- Astronomy researchers who made their *Astrophysical Journal* article open access using the arXiv.org e-print server doubled the citation rate of their articles.

SOURCE: Stevens-Rayburn, Sarah. Account of 2003 AAS Publication Board meeting email to PAM electronic discussion list, November 13, 2003. <http://listserv.nd.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A2=ind0311&L=pamnet&D=1&O=D&P=1632>

- Scientists who chose the open access option when they published in *Limnology and Oceanography* had approximately three times more downloads of their articles from that journal's website.

SOURCE: American Society of Limnology and Oceanography.
<http://aslo.org/lo/information/freeaccess.html>

For *more* information

- To find out more about these issues, visit the Create Change website at www.createchange.org.
- To obtain additional copies of this brochure, e-mail: pubs@arl.org.