



***Open-access** (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. What makes it possible is the internet and the consent of the author or copyright-holder.*

Open access is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue (even profit), print, preservation, prestige, quality, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature.

~ Peter Suber, "Open Access Overview," 2004 (revised 2010)
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm>

OA history – early days

Late 1960s/early 1970s

- ERIC, Medline, and Agricola created
- ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) launched

1971

- Project Gutenberg (e-books, cultural works) formed

1991-1994

- ArXiv (scientific papers preprint archive), mp_arc (Mathematical Physics Preprint Archive), Project Bartleby (e-text archive), Perseus Project (digital humanities collections) launched

1994

- Digital Libraries Initiative launched by National Science Foundation
- Social Sciences Research Network (SSRN) launched

1996

- Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, Internet Archive created

Early 2000s

2000-2003: Tools

- PubMed Central launched
- First Creative Commons licenses released
- Directory of Open Access Journals launched

2000-2003: Declarations

- Tempe Principles for Emerging Scholarly Publishing
- UN Economic and Social Council calls for “universal access to knowledge and information”
- Budapest Open Access Initiative
- Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing
- Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

Late 2000s

2005

- NIH Public Access Policy goes into effect: Scientists receiving NIH grants are asked to deposit in PubMed Central on a voluntary basis
- Wellcome Trust implements Open Access mandate for Wellcome-funded research
- Columbia University, University of Kansas, and Case Western Reserve, adopt statements in support of OA

2008

- Federal mandate takes effect requiring OA for NIH-funded research through deposit in PubMed Central
- Harvard mandates OA deposit of faculty scholarly works

2009

- MIT mandates OA deposit of faculty scholarly works

2013

- White House memo in support of Open Access to federally funded research
- Launch of Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)
- UK Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) proposes Open Access mandate

Timeline based in part on “Timeline of Open Access Movement” by Peter Suber:
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/timeline.htm>

See the OA@Pitt website for more resources and information: <http://openaccess.pitt.edu>