Open Access: Liberate Your Research

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What is Open Access?
Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research works, coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. (Source: www.sparc.arl.org/issues/open-access)

Why Open Access?
Research improves the public good through scientific discovery, innovation, and education – yet too often the results are closed behind subscription paywalls, inaccessible to the majority of a community of potential users.

The Internet gives us the opportunity to bring research to a worldwide audience at virtually no cost, with benefits to all.

Open Access Benefits Researchers by:
• Increasing visibility and impact of research work
• Creating new avenues for discovery
• Enhancing interdisciplinary research and collaboration
• Accelerating the pace of research, discovery, and innovation

Open Access Benefits the Community by:
• Democratizing access to research across all populations
• Providing previously unattainable access to underfunded groups
• Encouraging innovation with access to cutting-edge research
• Enriching the quality of education

Open Access is compatible with:
• copyright
• peer review
• revenue (even profit)
• print
• preservation
• prestige
• quality
• career advancement
• indexing
• & other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature. (Source: Peter Suber, “Open Access Overview,” 2004)

Resources
At Pitt:
• Open Access @ Pitt: openaccess.pitt.edu/
• Pitt OA Author Fee Fund: library.pitt.edu/about-open-access-author-fees-fund
• D-Scholarship, the Pitt archive: d-scholarship.pitt.edu
Beyond Pitt:
• Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition: sparc.arl.org/issues/open-access
• Directory of Open Access Journals: doaj.org
• Creative Commons: creativecommons.org
• SHERPA/RoMEO – publisher & journal policies: sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/

Are you committed to openness?
• Deposit your work in D-Scholarship
• Publish in Open Access journals
• Utilize our Open Access Author Fee Fund
• Choose Creative Commons licenses for your work and teaching materials
• Encourage others to share their work openly
• Volunteer as a reviewer or editor for an Open Access journal
• Start the OA conversation with a toll-access journal
• Celebrate Open Access Week with us