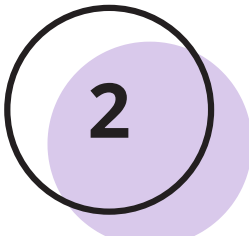


Getting Started with Open Access



What is Open Access?

Open Access (OA) refers to the unrestricted online availability of scholarly publications such as books, journal articles, pedagogical outputs, digital projects, and datasets. This model removes paywalls and licensing restrictions, making scholarly work freely accessible and shareable. Open Access is a *principle* and a *practice* that centers collaboration, transparency, and equity.



Democratizing Knowledge

Open Access ensures that everyone—regardless of their financial or institutional resources—can access cutting-edge research and participate in academic dialogues.



Advancing Equity

Open Access disrupts traditional hierarchies by making knowledge available to underserved and historically excluded communities.

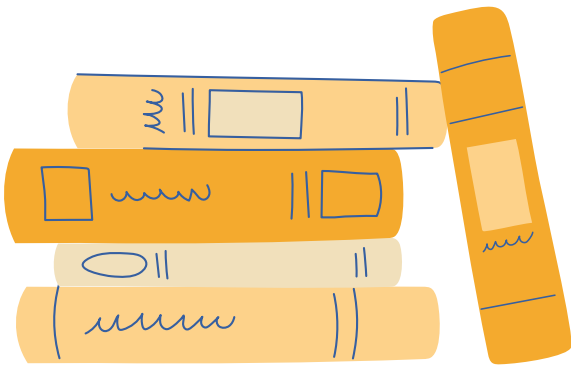


Ethical Standards

Myth of low quality: There is a misconception that OA publishing platforms are less rigorous than subscription-based ones. Peer-reviewed OA ensures scholarly integrity.

Open Access is not appropriate for all types of information, including:

1. Personal data
2. Culturally sensitive materials
3. Incomplete/early research (unpublished)
4. Commercially sensitive information



Open Access Repositories

- [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Books \(DOAB\)](#)
- [ArXiv](#) (STEM articles)
- [Online Library of Open Access Books \(OAPEN\)](#)
- [Open Library of Humanities](#)
- [Knowledge Unlatched](#)



How to Advocate for Open Access

- Create/use Open Educational Resources (OER)
- Collaborate on Digital Humanities Projects
- Support institutional Open Access repositories
- [International Open Access Week](#)

