

Open Access Journal Literature as an Open Educational Resource

A landscape photograph of a green field with scattered rocks under a blue sky with white clouds. The field is in the foreground and middle ground, with a line of trees and a utility pole visible on the horizon. The sky is filled with large, fluffy white clouds.

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Contents

- What is open access journal literature?
- How is it an open educational resource?
- What can Virginia do?

Journal Literature

- Academic research & scholarship
- Published in scientific journals on a serial basis
- Peer review is typical quality control
- Authors are not paid to publish
- Publications are mark of prestige used in hiring, tenure, grant awards
- Dominant method of scientific communication in many disciplines

Journal Literature, 2

- Traditionally disseminated on a subscription-only basis
- Thousands of \$ annually
- Unit cost increased 227% 1986-2002
 - Book unit cost: 75%
 - Consumer price index: 64%

Journal Literature, 3

- **Significant** role of public funding
- Research funding
 - Government (federal: \$29b/year)
 - Institutional support and salaries (many public)
- Subscription revenue
 - Mainly from university libraries (many public)

Open Access

- No **price** barriers: free online access
- No **permission** barriers: free to use and redistribute (usually to modify), subject to attribution of authorship

Open Access, 2

- Open access is a property of *individual works*
- “Green” road: per article
 - *e.g.* Self-archived on author's institution Web site
- “Gold” road: per journal
 - Entire issues are made immediately available for free online

Open Access, 3

- Only the distribution method is different
- Everything else (*e.g. quality control*) is the same process

Open Access, 4

- 90% of journals permit self-archiving (70% of publishers)
- 2,850 journals listed in Directory of Open Access Journals
- 500,000 articles in arXiv (physics)
- Research funders increasingly requiring open access of their grantees

Open Educational Resource

- As direct learning content in tertiary education
 - Journal articles assigned as readings, *e.g.* coursepacks
- As “outside-the-classroom” learning content
 - Research and independent reading
- As learning content for self-learners
- As “raw materials” for re-use in free learning content

What can Virginia do?

- State research funds: require OA of grantees
- Institutional research funds: require OA of grantees
- Universities:
 - Establish archives, encourage faculty to use them
 - Educate faculty and students about OA

What can we gain?

- Reduce costs for college students
- Enrich university education
- Expand the high-quality scientific information available to Virginians
- Increase scientific content available for use in OERs
- Reduce strain on library budgets
- Raise the profile of Virginia researchers and universities

Questions?

Thank you!

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