

# OPEN ACCESS

# FLAVORS

## ROUTES, COLORS AND FEATURES OF OPEN ACCESS

- free availability, online, no access barriers
- free of most restrictions on permitted use
- most common in scholarly publishing

Essentially, there are two routes of open access publishing:

### Gold Open Access

is immediate free access to a work published for the first time usually including further use rights

### Green Open Access

is free access to a version of a work originally not published open access usually via a repository

### Additional colors are sometimes used or have been proposed:

- Diamond** gold open access without publication charges<sup>1</sup> (also referred to as platinum<sup>2</sup>)
- Bronze** free (possibly temporary) access lacking further use rights, considered merely gratis or free-to-read<sup>3</sup>
- Blue** variations of green open access, e. g. delayed access due to an embargo period
- Gray** green open access via an outlet other than a repository,<sup>4</sup> e. g. a personal website
- Black** access without authorization or through illegal channels,<sup>5</sup> e. g. shadow libraries

These colors are either only variations of the gold route (diamond, bronze in some cases) or the green route (blue, gray) or contradict open access principles entirely (black, bronze in some cases). Due to their ambiguity and potential for confusion, their use is best avoided and limited to special cases.

**Hybrid open access** refers to gold open access for individual articles in closed access journals. It is neither a route nor a color of open access, but rather a way of implementation and a business model.

**Green, blue, yellow and white** were used until 2020 by the SHERPA/RoMEO database to distinguish self-archiving conditions of publishers.<sup>6</sup> If at all, they were merely subcategories of green open access.

- 1 10.31269/triplec.v11i2.502
- 2 bit.ly/3fHLyK8
- 3 10.7717/peerj.4375
- 4 10.1087/20120306, 10.1007/s11192-018-2924-2
- 5 10.1002/leap.1096
- 6 bit.ly/3iuXTnc, 10.1177/0961000616657406
- 7 Suber, *Open Access*, 65–75

Varieties of open access are best described by publication features:

### Publication Charges

- No** publishing is free of charge
- Yes** fees are charged for publishing

### Place of Publication

- Publisher** free access via a publisher's platform (may be a repository)
- Repository** free access via a non-commercial archive/server, usually run by an academic institution or by the scientific community
- Other** other place of publication, e. g. a personal website or social network usually considered bad practice and not compliant with open access

### Version

- Published Version** final version, after peer review and typesetting (aka version of record or publisher's version)
- Accepted Manuscript** revised manuscript, after peer review (aka postprint)
- Submitted Manuscript** original manuscript, before peer review (aka preprint)

### Use Rights

- Libre Access** free access and permitted use beyond copyright restrictions,<sup>7</sup> usually further specified by Creative Commons licenses
- Gratis Access** free access and only limited use permitted under copyright law<sup>7</sup> usually not considered genuine open access

### Availability

- Instant Access** free access immediately upon publication
- Delayed Access** free access after a predetermined period of time usually considered only compliant with green open access

### Preservation

- Permanent Access** guaranteed indefinite free access
- Transient Access** temporary or not guaranteed free access usually not considered genuine open access