

THE SCHOLCOMM CHRONICLES #1

RAMBLING ABOUT MISCONCEPTIONS OF OPEN ACCESS - BY CHRISTOPHE DONY

I'VE BEEN WONDERING HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS MISLEADING NEWS* TITLE LATELY.

10/05/21

Open access 'excludes' developing world scientists

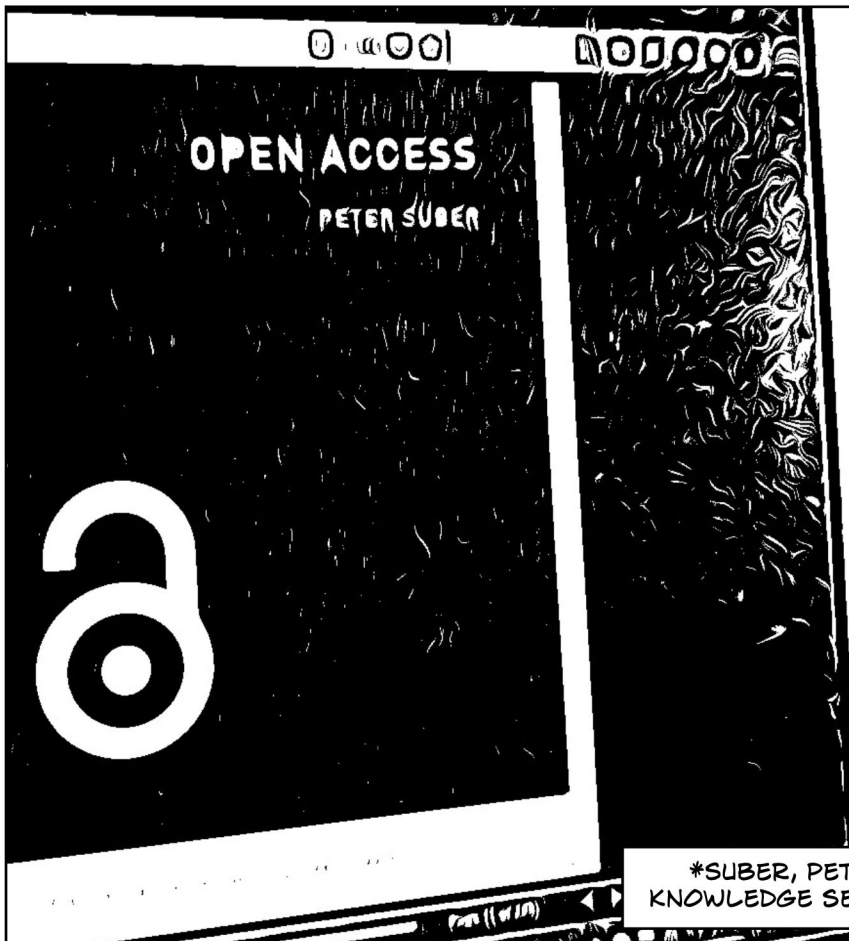


*ORIGINAL ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.SCIDEV.NET/GLOBAL/FEATURES/OPEN-ACCESS-EXCLUDES-DEVELOPING-WORLD-SCIENTISTS/](https://www.scidev.net/global/features/open-access-excludes-developing-world-scientists/)

IT SURE IS A HYPE TITLE. BUT IT IS BASED ON A MISCONCEPTION UNDERLYING ONE OF THE COMMON MYTHS* ASSOCIATED WITH OPEN ACCESS, NAMELY THAT ALL OPEN ACCESS IS BASED ON A PAY-TO-PUBLISH MODEL.



*SEE PETER SUBER'S ARTICLE FOR THE GUARDIAN HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM/HIGHER-EDUCATION-NETWORK/BLOG/2013/OCT/21/OPEN-ACCESS-MYTHS-PETER-SUBER-HARVARD](https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/blog/2013/oct/21/open-access-myths-peter-suber-harvard)



THIS MYTH HAS BEEN DEBUNKED COUNTLESS TIMES BUT IT MOST LIKELY RESURFACES EVERY NOW AND THEN BECAUSE OF THE AMBIGUITY OF THE LABEL "GOLD OPEN ACCESS".

DESPITE ITS BUSINESS OR FINANCIAL UNDERTONES, GOLD OPEN ACCESS IS JUST ONE ROUTE TO ACHIEVING OPEN ACCESS. BUT IT DOES NOT REFER TO AN ECONOMIC MODEL, LET ALONE A PAY-TO-PUBLISH ECONOMIC MODEL.

AS PHILOSOPHER AND OPEN ACCESS SPECIALIST PETER SUBER EXPLAINS IT: GOLD OPEN ACCESS REFERS TO "OA DELIVERED BY JOURNALS, REGARDLESS OF THE JOURNAL'S BUSINESS MODEL" (2012, 53)*.

*SUBER, PETER. OPEN ACCESS. MIT PRESS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE SERIES. CAMBRIDGE, MASS.: MIT PRESS, 2012.



DONY, CHRISTOPHE. "THE SCHOLCOMM CHRONICLES #1. RAMBLING ABOUT MISCONCEPTIONS OF OPEN ACCESS". [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.5281/ZENODO.4765798](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4765798)

PAY-TO-PUBLISH OPEN ACCESS IS PRACTICED BY FEE-BASED OR APC*-LED JOURNALS - BUT THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE POSSIBLE MODELS THAT THE GOLD OPEN ACCESS ROUTE ENTAILS. SOME OF THE PRICES PRACTICED BY APC-LED JOURNALS SUCH AS THE ONES SHOWN BELOW** CAN ABSOLUTELY EXCLUDE SOME SCHOLARS FROM PUBLISHING IN PARTICULAR VENUES. THERE'S NO DENYING THAT!

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* APC = "ARTICLE PROCESSING CHARGE" OR "ARTICLE PUBLISHING CHARGE".

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BUT A QUICK LOOK AT THE DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS' WEBSITE (DOAJ) ATTESTS THAT THIS MODEL IS NOT THE MOST COMMON ONE FOR GOLD OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS (A PLEONASM OF SORTS IF YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING). AS THE IMAGE BELOW SHOWS, MORE THAN 70% OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS DO NOT CHARGE APCs.

<https://www.doaj.org>

DOAJ

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THIS MEANS THAT MOST OA JOURNALS FUNCTION WITH A DIFFERENT FUNDING MODEL THAN AUTHORS OR THEIR INSTITUTION PAYING FEES. THIS OTHER MODEL CAN BE CONSIDERED A FORM OF GOLD OA AND IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE "DIAMOND MODEL". A RECENT REPORT HAS SHOWN THAT THIS DIAMOND MODEL IS USED BY A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF JOURNALS OUTSIDE THOSE INDEXED IN THE DOAJ!



THIS REPORT ON DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS* IS AVAILABLE ON THE CATCH-ALL REPOSITORY "ZENODO". IT IS THEREFORE PUBLISHED THANKS TO THE OTHER OPEN ACCESS ROUTE THAT IS COMPLEMENTARY TO GOLD OPEN ACCESS, I.E. THE GREEN ROUTE. GREEN OA IS FREE OF CHARGES FOR AUTHORS!

THIS EXAMPLE AND THE GREEN/GOLD COMPLEMENTARITY MATTERS BECAUSE, AS SUBER WRITES, "IF AUTHORS CAN'T MAKE THEIR WORK OA ONE WAY, THEY CAN MAKE IT OA THE OTHER WAY" (2012, 54).

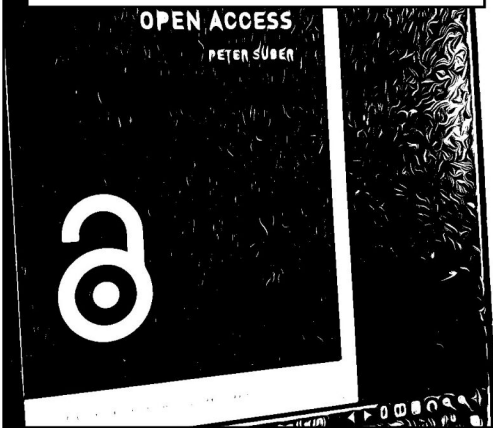
OA Diamond Journals Study Part 1 Findings

12,627

- Bosman, Jeroen
 - Frantsvåg, Jan Erik
 - Langlais, Pierre-Carl
 - Proudman, Vanessa
- Project manager(s)
 • Vanessa Proudman
 Project member(s)
 • Jeroen Bosman
 • Jan Erik Frantsvåg
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 • Vanessa Proudman

Open

*BOSMAN, JEROEN, JAN ERIK FRANTSVÅG, BIANCA KRAMER, PIERRE-CARL LANGLAIS, AND VANESSA PROUDMAN. "OA DIAMOND JOURNALS STUDY. PART 1: FINDINGS". ZENODO, 9 MARCH 2021. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.5281/ZENODO.4558704](https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.4558704).



OF COURSE, GREEN AND GOLD OA WORK DIFFERENTLY AND REQUIRE AUTHORS TO DO DIFFERENT THINGS, WHICH WOULD NEED SOME FURTHER EXPLAINING (MAYBE IN ANOTHER FUTURE INSTALLMENT OF "THE SCHOLCOMM CHRONICLES").

THE POINT HERE IS THAT BOTH THE GREEN/GOLD COMPLEMENTARITY AND THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC MODELS OF GOLD OA HIGHLIGHT THE MISLEADING CHARACTER OF THE NEWS TITLE WE STARTED THIS NARRATIVE WITH. OPEN ACCESS DOES NOT EXCLUDE ANYONE. BUT APC-LED JOURNALS DO, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PRICES OF APCs ARE BEYOND REASONABLE OR INCLUSIVE.

10/05/21

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Open access 'excludes' developing world scientists



WHY OPEN ACCESS HAS TO BE GOLD

Gold OA publishing offers the simplest, most open, and most sustainable route to OA and open science

Factor	Gold OA	Green OA
Timing	✓ Available <u>immediately</u> on publication.	X
Version	✓ UNDERSTANDING THE GREEN/GOLD DISTINCTION AND THE MODELS AND SPECIFICITIES THAT THEY ENTAIL IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE FOR MAINTAINING THE DIVERSITY OF OPEN ACCESS VENUES AND OPTIONS.	X
Location and discoverability	✓ THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS SEEM KEEN ON PUSHING FOR THEIR OWN AND VERY ORIENTED NARRATIVE OF WHAT GOLD OPEN ACCESS IS AND ITS PRESUMED SUPERIORITY OVER GREEN OA, AS IN THIS IMAGE FROM A 2021 PRESENTATION* BY THE CEO OF THE SPRINGER NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP.	X
Integrity of scientific record	✓	X
Licensing	✓	X
Path to open science	✓	X
	*OTHER SLIDES OF THIS PRESENTATION CAN BE FOUND HERE (ALONG WITH A SENSIBLE COMMENTARY): HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/KPMDJZY4	X

YOU'RE STILL NOT DREAMING!

ONLY GOLD OA SUPPORTS OPEN SCIENCE