



# How to pay for Open Access

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Thanks for coming everyone! Today we're going to be talking about open access and how to pay for it.

## Today's session

- What is open access?
- Funders and policies
- Open access terminology
- How to make your work open
- So how do I pay?
- Top tips before submitting

**N.B.** Today's advice applies to journal articles and conference proceedings

Open Access is a big topic, and there're lots of terminology involved, so for the first part of the session I'm going to spend a bit of time ensuring that we're all on the same page about what OA is, why it's important and how it all works generally. Then we're going to go into more detail about how you make your work open in Cambridge, and how it's all paid for. Finally I'll end with some top tips about what you need to do as a researcher so you don't get caught out with OA payments.

Just a quick proviso – today we're going to be talking about the most common scholarly outputs that are covered by funder policies, which are journal articles and conference proceedings. I do also have a session about open data, so if you want to know more about the data side of things, just get in touch.



Okay so show of hands... who here feels they understand what Open Access is?

And who has ever made a piece of their published work available openly?

Great, thank you. If you haven't yet done any of those things, or need a bit more information, hopefully today will make things clearer for you!

# What is open access?

- A publishing and distribution model based on Open Research principles
- Aims to get scholarly works out from behind journal paywalls
- Disruption of traditional scholarly publishing, which depends on free academic labour
- Belief that everyone is entitled to read academic work



In essence Open Access is a publishing and distribution model based on the Open Research movement, which aims to make all scholarly outputs freely available to anyone who wants to read them. Traditionally research published in journals has been trapped behind paywalls, available to only those affiliated with academic institutions who could afford to pay. As journal subscriptions rose, fewer people and institutions could afford to pay, or thought it was right to, considering that much research is funded by public money and all the academic labour involved, such as peer review, happens for free. Therefore the move towards open access aims to equalise access to scholarly literature and increase its impact globally.



The benefits of making your work available openly are myriad. **[go through slide]**

But why does  
this matter to  
you?



# University strategy



The University of Cambridge is committed to disseminating its research and scholarship as widely as possible.



All journal articles, conference proceedings and other output types that are required to be made open access for funder or REF purposes should be open access, and you are strongly encouraged to consider open access for other outputs.



[Cambridge Open Access Publications Policy Framework](#)

Well, the first reason is it complies with University policy. We are committed to disseminating our research and scholarship as widely as possible, so the University strongly encourages open access for all outputs where possible.

There is also an expectation that journal articles and conference proceedings are made open access at the point of publication, to ensure that they are compliant with both funder requirements and compliant for the next REF exercise. While we don't yet know exactly what the REF2029 requirements will be, they are likely to be similar to the current UKRI policy which requires immediate open access upon publication.

See the University's Open Access Publications Policy Framework for more details.

## Funder requirements

Many funders now require immediate open access upon publication:

- UKRI (inc. BBSRC)
- Wellcome Trust
- Cancer Research UK
- Royal Society
- Horizon Europe

[\(webpage for funder policies\)](#)



[go through slide]



## REF requirements

- **R**esearch **E**xcellence **F**ramework
- Exercise to assess UK universities and allocate government funding
- Open Access requirements since REF2021

[go through slide]

## Making your thesis open

- Complies with funder Open Access policies
- Can be embargoed or restricted – contact the OSC for options
- Enhances the profile of the work
- Offers a stable URL
- Request a Copy option available
- Provides long-term preservation
- Protects from plagiarism
- Completely free to you!



For any postgraduate students in the room, the first time you come up against all of this may be when you submit your thesis. As of October 2017, all PhD theses must be deposited in Apollo. If you're funded by a Research Council Training Grant, then you also have to make it open within 12 months of your doctoral award. It can be embargoed up until then to give you time to develop papers from your research, and any particularly sensitive material can also be controlled or restricted. The OSC can guide you through this process and make sure you choose the correct access level for your work to comply with your funder guidelines.

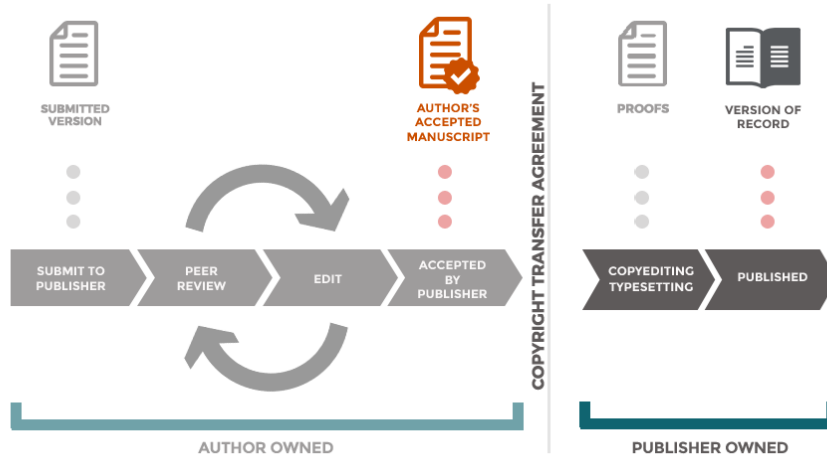
This might sound quite scary but it's actually really good to have your thesis available openly – it enhances the profile of your work and makes it available to any potential employers, it provides a stable URL to your work and enables it to be preserved long-term, and it can even protect you from plagiarism, as it effectively time-stamps your research. There have been no known instances of publishers refusing to publish from theses available in a repository, and it can give you good evidence for the impact of your research via download statistics. And even if your work is embargoed, people can still request a copy from you.

<https://www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk/theses>



First, some terminology and concepts to get your head around. There's a lot of jargon around OA so I'm going to try and demystify some of it here.

# Manuscript versions



Source: Office of Scholarly Communication (University of Cambridge)

To start with, a lot of OA relies on you knowing exactly which version of your manuscript you are sharing, so here's a good graphic from the OSC to explain. The 'submitted version' is the version you send off to the publisher at first, with no edits or changes. Your 'author's accepted manuscript' is the version you get back from the publisher once the article has been accepted, which has all the changes from peer review but isn't yet copyedited or typeset. It's usually just a Word document but is essentially the finished article, just less pretty. The 'version of record' is the final version of the document that appears on the publisher's website, with all the fancy copyediting and the journal logo etc. This last one is what we would traditionally think of as a 'journal article', but the AAM is usually exactly the same document, just in a different format.

## Types of open access

### Green

- Self-archiving
- Version to submit: author's accepted manuscript
- Deposited in OA repository (e.g. Apollo)
- No fees
- Traditionally embargoed for a set time (6-24 months)

### Gold

- Freely available on journal website
- Version to submit: version of record/published article
- Immediately available for download
- Usually have to pay an APC (article processing charge)

There are several ways of making your work available openly. First, there's the 'green' route, also known as 'self-archiving'. This tends to be a preferred route because it's free – you just deposit your author's accepted manuscript into a repository where it can be found and viewed by anyone. However, in the past publishers have usually mandated embargos for the green route, ensuring that they still have a monopoly on your work for the embargo period. Usually for STEMM subjects this is 6-12 months, but it can be up to 24 months for HASS subjects.

Due to these embargo periods, for the last decade or so the only way of making your work open immediately has been via the 'gold' route. This allows you to make the 'version of record' freely available on the publisher's website, even if it's a subscription journal. Unfortunately, this can cost quite a bit of money through what are called article processing charges, or APCs. For some journals, this means the publishers charge the library for the subscription to the journal, and then charge the author (usually via the library or institution) to publish openly in the journal. This has become known as 'double-dipping' and is an issue of contention within open access publishing. APCs can be anywhere from a few hundred to several thousand pounds per paper – to publish via gold in Nature costs a whopping £8,500! Realistically for institutions that publish a lot this is unsustainable.

# Diamond open access

- Free to publish and to read on the journal website
- Version available: version of record/published article
- Immediately available for download
- Cost of publishing subsidised by other means (e.g. funding from universities, societies etc.)



A newer model of OA publishing is via the 'Diamond' route. This is a model where both reading and publishing is free at the point of need, as the cost of APCs has been subsidised by other means, usually via funding from universities, societies or other interested institutions. This is potentially a better alternative to Gold, and has been very successful in some areas, particularly in Latin America. However, there are issues around the sustainability of this kind of funding, especially in an era where budgets are constantly being cut.

# Journal types



## Subscription

All articles are behind paywalls – you have to subscribe to read



## Hybrid

Business model is subscription but allow you to pay APCs to make articles available openly via Gold route



## Fully OA

All articles are freely available for anyone to read – can be either Gold or Diamond OA

Related to the terminology around OA publishing models is that around journal types. It's a good idea to be aware of the type of journal you are looking at publishing in, especially as this can determine whether funding is available to pay for any potential APCs.

Most traditional journals are (or used to be) what we call 'subscription journals', as their business model relies on libraries or individuals paying via subscriptions to access their content, either in a paper journal or digitally. For other people, the content is hidden behind a paywall. Some subscription journals allow immediate green OA, such as Science, but many still use embargo periods, so you need to be careful when publishing in these journals if your funder requires immediate OA.

In recent years, due to the boom in gold OA publishing, most traditional subscription journals now allow you to pay APCs to make your work available openly on their platforms. This means they are now what are called 'hybrid journals', as they operate a hybrid model of subscriptions and APCs. Many of the most popular journals in Biological Sciences operate under a hybrid model, including Nature and Cell. It's important to be aware if your chosen journal is hybrid as if you are funded by UKRI, you are no longer eligible for APC funding if you publish in a hybrid journal.

As well as subscription and hybrid, there are also an increasing number of fully open access journals, which operate either via the gold route by charging APCs, or via the diamond route where funding makes it free to publish and to read their content. This includes journals such as the PLoS suite and eLife. Funders will generally pay APCs for fully OA journals.



Doing OA in Cambridge

# It's very simple!



With your co-authors, agree to the CC-BY licence for the Self-Archiving Policy



Upload your accepted manuscript to Elements



Follow the advice of the Open Access Team

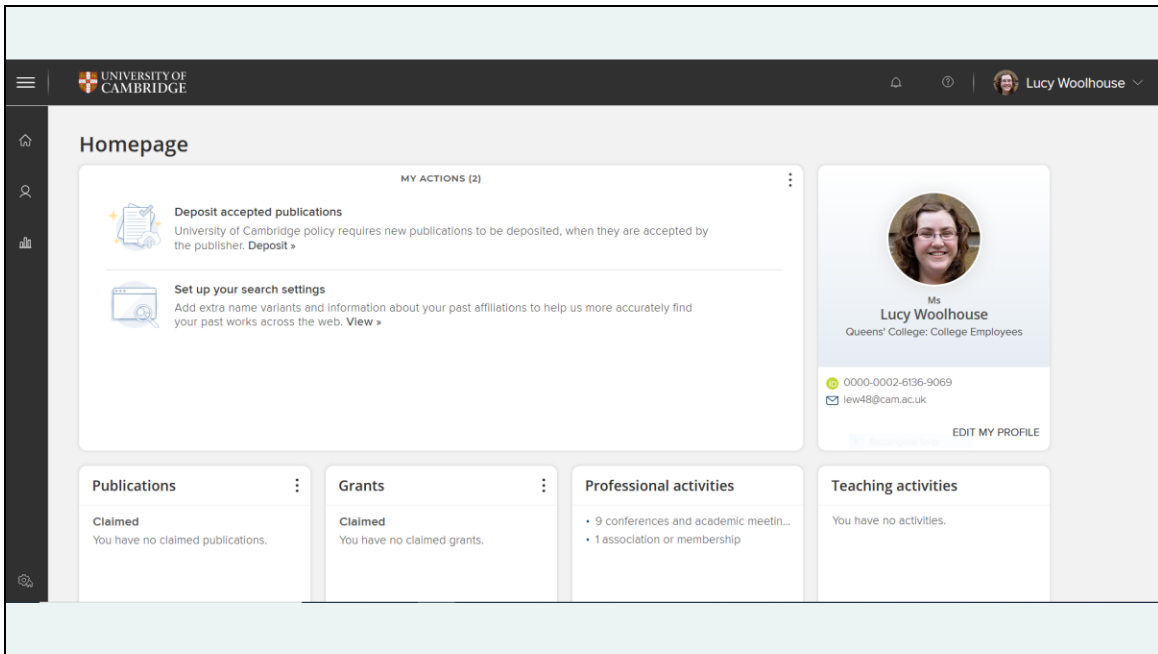
Before Submitting

On Acceptance

It's actually really simple!

**Before submission**, talk with your co-authors and discuss your requirements for OA. You may be working with people from different institutions who have different funders, so it's important to have these conversations early so your various requirements can be factored into your publication strategy. Ideally, you will also all agree to use the Self-Archiving Policy (more on this in a minute) and to using a CC-BY licence or alternative open licence for the manuscript. CC-BY is the licence most funders (and the University) encourage, but alternative licences are possible if necessary.

**Then, at point of acceptance**, upload your paper to Symplectic Elements (if possible at this point make sure to add acceptance date as well). And that's pretty much all you need to do! The Open Access Team will then take care of transferring your deposit over into Apollo, and will contact you if there's anything else you need to do around requesting funding or using a particular read and publish deal. So really, you don't actually need to worry about funding too much.



So this is what Elements looks like, in case you've not seen it before. You should already have an account set up but if you don't, you'll need to contact the Research Information Office. You just deposit your work in here, and then the Open Access Team transfer it over into Apollo to be seen by the world!



## Apollo - University of Cambridge Repository

Apollo is the institutional repository of the University of Cambridge, managed by the [Open Research Systems team](#) based in Cambridge University Library. The Repository is committed to store and preserve the University's research outputs. Research outputs can include, but are not limited to, publications, conference proceedings, book chapters, monographs, theses, various forms of research data (video recordings, spreadsheets, computational scripts, code, images etc.), presentations and others.

🔍 Search



Cambridge Research Outputs



Research data and Software



Theses

In case you've not actually gone to Apollo before, this is what it looks like! So this is where your work appears once it is made available openly.

# So how do I pay?



So you know how to make your work available openly, but where does the money come from? There are a few different ways to pay for OA publishing... if indeed, you need to pay at all.

# University of Cambridge Self-Archiving Policy (SAP)

## **How does it work?**

Researchers automatically grant the University a licence to make accepted version publicly available in Apollo with an open licence at the time of publication.

## **What does it apply to?**

Peer-reviewed research and review articles (currently).

## **Who?**

Applies to all engaged by the University in research activities (unless you opt out).

Well first of all, if you use Cambridge's Self-Archiving Policy then you don't have to worry about money at all! The Self-Archiving Policy was introduced on the 1st April 2023 to help researchers comply with OA requirements more easily.

So how does it work? Now the SAP is in place, researchers automatically grant the University a licence to make the accepted version of their research output publicly available in Apollo with an open licence, at the time of publication. Apollo is the University Institutional repository. It is based on the researcher retaining their rights to apply a Creative Commons licence to the accepted version of the manuscript.

The policy currently applies to all peer-reviewed research and review articles accepted for publication in a journal, conference proceeding or publishing platform, and it covers anyone engaged by the University in research activities. Researchers can opt out of the policy and this happens when you deposit your manuscript, so even if you opt out, you do still need to deposit.

To support this policy, The University has notified most of the publishers that Cambridge researchers publish with. Cambridge is not alone in having a policy where researchers retain their rights. Across UK institutions, there are now over 22 rights

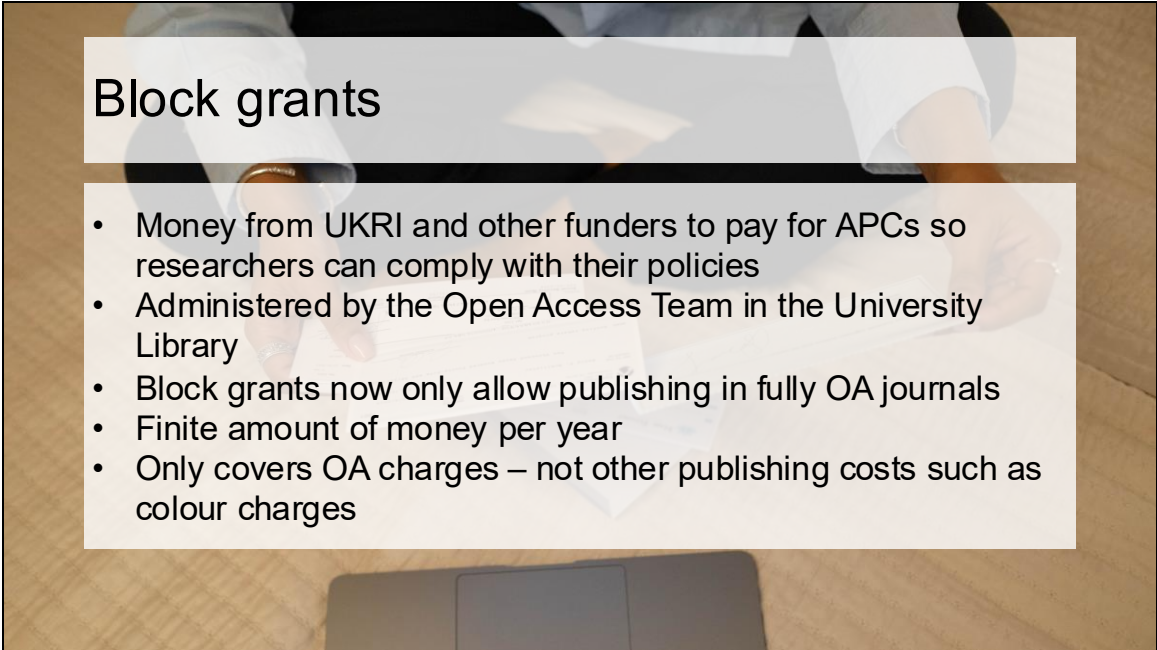
retention policies in place, including the University of Oxford, University of Manchester and University of Edinburgh.

“For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission.”

[List of publishers that have been notified of the Cambridge Self-Archiving Policy](#) (Raven login needed)

While many publishers have been notified of the policy, it's still a good idea to let them know upon submission of your intention to use the SAP. This is the rights retention wording that the OSC recommends you use with every journal submission. There are smaller publishers that may not have been notified, and including the rights retention wording every time makes sure you are covered in the event of any pushback.

And it's also good to note at this point that even if you are making your work available via Gold OA payments rather than via the green self-archiving route, depositing your work into Apollo means that it is preserved for the future and supports the purpose of Apollo as an institutional repository that contains all of Cambridge's research outputs.



## Block grants

- Money from UKRI and other funders to pay for APCs so researchers can comply with their policies
- Administered by the Open Access Team in the University Library
- Block grants now only allow publishing in fully OA journals
- Finite amount of money per year
- Only covers OA charges – not other publishing costs such as colour charges

So how do we pay for open access publishing, where needed? One way is via block grants. Essentially this is money given to UK universities by UKRI and other research funders to pay for APCs and ensure that authors can publish their work openly to comply with funder policies. But there are conditions attached to this money. Block grants can now only be used for fully OA journals and not for hybrid journals, which is why it's important for you to check your journal is compliant before submitting. The grants also aren't an endless pot, so they can run out. The best thing to do if you're relying on using block grant money to make your work open is to contact the OA Team, who can advise you of your options. In most cases, the best route is always the Self-Archiving Policy. In addition, block grants don't cover other charges associated with publication such as colour charges, so it's important to be aware of this.

## 'Read and publish' deals

- Aka 'transformative' or 'transitional' agreements
- Access to published content and free to publish openly
- R&P deals in Biological Sciences include:
  - Elsevier (inc. Cell Press)
  - Springer (inc. all Nature titles)
  - Microbiology Society (inc. Microbial Genomics)
  - Company of Biologists (inc. Development, Journal of Cell Science)
  - Royal Society (inc. Philosophical Transactions B)
  - Wiley (inc. BioEssays, Developmental Genetics)
- Check [Open Access website](#) for a list of current deals

You may also have heard of something called 'read and publish' deals, also known as transformative or transitional agreements. If you publish in a journal covered by one of these deals, you don't need to worry about money at all! Read and publish deals are negotiated with publishers to include both access to content and free APCs for authors who wish to publish in their journals. Some of the money to pay for this comes from the block grants we just talked about. As you can see from this slide, many of the most popular journals across Biological Sciences fall under these deals. If you're unsure whether your journal is covered, the Open Access Team have a journal checker tool on their website – we currently have a deal with over 11,000 journal titles.

These deals are very important as the costs of accessing subscription material and publishing have skyrocketed over the last 20 years. Our current spend on Springer alone is around £1.5 million. These deals are usually negotiated by all universities collectively, as that ensures we can get a better deal. However, there are worries that reliance on these kinds of deals could continue to embed APCs into the publication process, and negotiating any of these deals requires us to be prepared to walk away from a bad offer from the publisher, which can be tricky when we need access to their content for our studies and research. For the Springer deal that was negotiated

last year, for example, we had a robust 'Plan B' option which involved leveraging OA resources and using the inter-library loans system that already exists between academic institutions, and using our Self-Archiving Policy to ensure we could still publish in their journals.

<https://www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk/publishing-open-access/read-publish-journals>



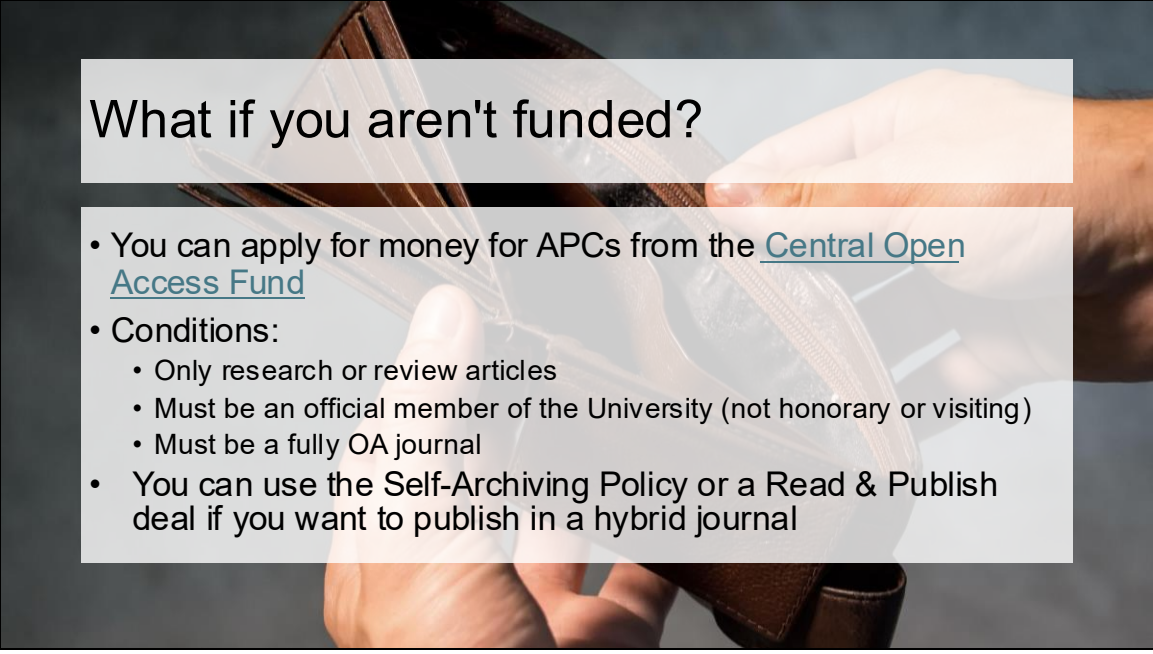
## 2025 – a big year for R&P deals

- Negotiations will be happening with the five biggest publishers:
  - Elsevier
  - Springer Nature
  - Wiley
  - Taylor and Francis
  - SAGE
- Jisc will assess the offerings against the ['How equitable is it?' framework](#)
- Walking away from bad deals is a negotiating tactic

Next year is going to be a very big year for these deals, as the HE sector's deals with five of the biggest publishers are all coming up for negotiation at the same time. This will include Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Taylor and Francis, and Sage. Jisc, the non-profit organisation that brokers these deals on behalf of HEIs, has engineered this to try and get the best deals we can and stop publishers from embedding bad behaviour into these deals (such as double-dipping and embargo periods). Therefore, the deals offered by the publishers will be assessed against a new framework - devised in conjunction with cOAlition S and PLoS - which aims to highlight how far scholarly communications models and arrangements provide equitable access to knowledge. Where the publishers' offers do not reach the required standard, they will be asked to improve the offer. The framework assesses 7 criteria in total, including aspects such as access to read papers, ability to immediately publish openly, re-use rights and promoting and encouraging open research practices – I've linked to the full PDF breakdown here so you can see the criteria for yourselves.

If the publishers refuse to improve their deals to an acceptable standard or cost, we may need to walk away from them in order to show our dedication to this cause. People across the University Library have been modelling possible scenarios to retain the most amount of access to materials and protect researchers' rights to publish

freely should this happen. There will be much more communication about this in the new year, so please do stay tuned, and remember that walking away is a very strong negotiating tactic and does not necessarily mean we will never work with these publishers again. However, in a HE sector where finances are a major concern, we do have to try and reduce our spend on these deals as well as encouraging good and equitable behaviour from publishers.



## What if you aren't funded?

- You can apply for money for APCs from the [Central Open Access Fund](#)
- Conditions:
  - Only research or review articles
  - Must be an official member of the University (not honorary or visiting)
  - Must be a fully OA journal
- You can use the Self-Archiving Policy or a Read & Publish deal if you want to publish in a hybrid journal

And finally... what if you don't have any funding at all and want to publish in a journal that charges APCs and isn't covered under a R&P deal? Until fairly recently this was a big problem for the University, but at the beginning of Michaelmas Term 2022 the Central Open Access Fund was made available. This is specifically for researchers who are not funded but wish to publish openly. There are still some conditions attached – it has to be a research or review article, you need to be an official member of staff and not just visiting or honorary, and the journal needs to be a fully OA journal. If you want to publish in a hybrid journal then you'll need to use the SAP or an R&P deal. But this is a big step forward for unfunded researchers.

So what do you need to do?



So what do you actually need to do with all of this information? Well, before you even submit you should...

## Before you submit...

- **Check your journal complies with your funder requirements**

One of the first things to do is to see if your chosen journal complies with your funder requirements. Luckily, there is an easy way to check this.

Which publishing options are supported by your funder's OA policy?

JOURNAL

By ISSN or title



MY FUNDER

By funder name



MY INSTITUTION

By ROR or name

 No affiliation

SEND US FEEDBACK

The handy Journal Checker Tool just needs these three bits of information and it can tell you if your journal is compliant, or if you might need to think again. The tool will indicate to you the type of route that you can take with the journal, such as if it's covered by an R&P deal or if OA payments can be made.

<https://journalcheckertool.org/>

## Before you submit...

- Check your journal complies with your funder requirements
- **Check if your journal is covered by a Read & Publish deal**

You should also check if your journal is covered in a Read & Publish deal. This should also show up in the Journal Checker Tool, but it's always worth a separate check in case there are specific terms and conditions.

## The University has open access publishing agreements with the following journals.

You can use this journal checker tool to search for journals included in the University's [open access publishing agreements](#). You can search the list by keyword or browse the journals included by title, e-ISSN, or by publisher. Where possible, a link to the home page of each journal is also provided. Please note that this page is updated whenever a new Read & Publish agreement is signed.

Researchers can also use the [Plan S journal checker](#) to determine whether a journal is Plan S compliant. The Plan S checker is still in beta, so researchers should continue to use the journal checker below as a definitive guide to see if a journal is covered by a Read & Publish deal.

For your article submission to qualify for open access under the [terms of the agreements](#), you **must** be the responsible corresponding author and affiliated with the University of Cambridge (please use your @cam.ac.uk email address).

For any enquiry about the information on this page or for help regarding eligibility for open access publishing please contact the [Open Access Team](#).

Last updated 08/02/2024

Show  entries Search:

Publisher	Title	Online ISSN	URL
American Institute of Physics	Journal of the Acoustical Society of America	0001-4966	<a href="https://asa.scitation.org/journal/jas">https://asa.scitation.org/journal/jas</a>
Springer	Journal of the Indian Institute of Science	0019-4964	<a href="https://www.springer.com/journal/41745">https://www.springer.com/journal/41745</a>

There's a full list of journals covered by the deals on the Open Access website where you can just search for your journal name.

<https://www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk/publishing-open-access/read-publish-journals>

## Before you submit...

- Check your journal complies with your funder requirements
- Check if your journal is covered by a Read & Publish deal
- **If neither of those apply, use the Self-Archiving Policy (but also consider if you could publish elsewhere)**

If your journal isn't compliant or covered by an R&P deal – you can use the SAP, but also consider if there is somewhere else you could publish – such as in a fully Open Access journal.

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DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

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<b>80</b> LANGUAGES	<b>136</b> COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	<b>13,841</b> JOURNALS WITHOUT APCs	<b>21,150</b> JOURNALS	<b>10,486,520</b>
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The Directory of Open Access Journals is a great place to find OA journals in your subject area.

<https://doaj.org/>

## Before you submit...

- Check your journal complies with your funder requirements
- Check if your journal is covered by a Read & Publish deal
- If neither of those apply, use the Self-Archiving Policy (but also consider if you could publish elsewhere)
- **Always use the Self-Archiving Policy wording when submitting**

Even if you think you will be using another route to compliance, always use the SAP wording when submitting to ensure you are covered to deposit your AAM. This means you are covered for all eventualities, including us potentially walking away from a deal with your publisher.

## Self-Archiving Policy Guidance

### Self-Archiving Policy Guidance

The University's [Self-Archiving Policy](#) came into effect on April 1st 2023. The policy applies to all peer-reviewed research articles submitted after April 1st 2023, including reviews and conference papers, that are accepted for final publication in either a journal, conference proceeding or publishing platform. The policy allows authors to make their accepted research articles available in Apollo immediately upon publication. It is based on the researcher retaining their rights to apply a Creative Commons licence to the accepted version of the manuscript ('rights retention').

### How do I comply with the policy?

Before submission:

- Ensure that your co-authors agree to apply a CC BY licence to the accepted manuscript. Alternative licences are permitted providing they are in line with funder requirements.
- It is advisable to include the following sentence in your article's financial disclosure or acknowledgements section: "For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission". This ensures that the publisher is aware of your intention to retain the right to distribute the accepted manuscript.

On acceptance:

- Deposit your article into the repository through [Symplectic Elements](#).
- Inform us of any preference for an alternative Creative Commons licence using the options provided.

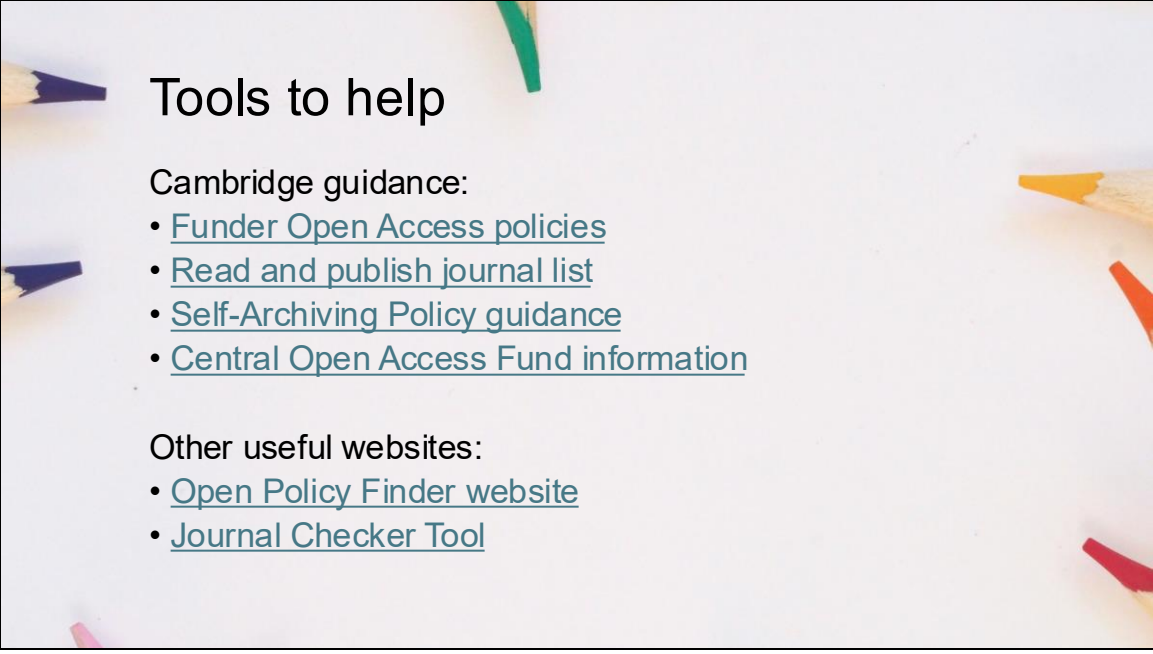
You can find all the guidance on the SAP, including the wording to use in your manuscript and on your submission email, on the Open Access website.

<https://www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk/publishing-open-access/self-archiving-policy-guidance>

## Before you submit...

- Check your journal complies with your funder requirements
- Check if your journal is covered by a Read & Publish deal
- If neither of those apply, use the Self-Archiving Policy (but also consider if you could publish elsewhere)
- Always use the Self-Archiving Policy wording when submitting
- **Ask for help if you need it!**

And if you're unsure about anything – just ask us for help!



## Tools to help

Cambridge guidance:

- [Funder Open Access policies](#)
- [Read and publish journal list](#)
- [Self-Archiving Policy guidance](#)
- [Central Open Access Fund information](#)

Other useful websites:

- [Open Policy Finder website](#)
- [Journal Checker Tool](#)

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# Further guidance and advice

## **Open access**

Contact Lucy ([sbslibraries@lib.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sbslibraries@lib.cam.ac.uk))

Open Access Website (<https://www.openaccess.cam.ac.uk/>)

Email the Open Access team ([info@openaccess.cam.ac.uk](mailto:info@openaccess.cam.ac.uk))

LibGuide for librarians and administrators

## **Elements**

Elements guidance

([https://universityofcambridgecloud.sharepoint.com/sites/CRO\\_research-information](https://universityofcambridgecloud.sharepoint.com/sites/CRO_research-information))

Email the Research Information Office ([researchinformation@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:researchinformation@admin.cam.ac.uk))

If you find you're still struggling to navigate all of this or have questions later, you can contact me and I'll do my best to help. Otherwise, loads of information about OA is available on the Open Access website, and the OA team are a fount of knowledge. I've also linked to the RIO guidance for Elements which is very good, and given their contact information in case you do need to get in touch or request an account.