

## STM publishers provide many routes for access to enable discovery

STM publishers' mission is to enable the broadest possible access to high-quality peer-reviewed scholarly articles, preserve the integrity of the scholarly record, and enable the necessary investments in the dissemination of knowledge to help advance science, scholarship and innovation. In furthering the first part of this mission, publishers provide free or affordable access, in a variety of ways, and support the sharing of articles through many routes. Wide access, and the creation and dissemination of articles, is enabled by sustainable business models that support publisher investments in the quality and integrity of the scholarly record.

Publishers provide options for access on their platforms in a manner appropriate to the journal community that each publisher serves.<sup>1</sup> These methods include:

- Subscription-based access to millions of researchers and students through the institutional libraries with which they are affiliated, many of which also provide walk-in access to the broader public<sup>2</sup>
- Funded no-cost access on publisher platforms, supported by APCs<sup>3</sup> or underwriting
- Publisher-supported no-cost access provided by publishers voluntarily to further their mission of enabling the broadest possible dissemination of articles, consistent with sustainable business models (e.g. after an appropriate delay, or to respond to community needs, as in response to emerging threats<sup>4</sup>)
- Low-cost access to the reader, through one-time payments or an article rental system similar to iTunes (e.g., DeepDyve, Proquest Udini, ReadCube Access, and Infotrieve)
- Free access to the public through subscriptions provided by publishers at no cost to public libraries in the US and UK.

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<sup>1</sup> Data collected by Heather Piwowar et. al. in "[The State of OA: A large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles](#)" shows that more free access to articles is made available through publisher voluntary access initiatives than any other means.

<sup>2</sup> Note that the cost per article of subscriptions continues to go down each year, see [http://www.stm-assoc.org/2015\\_02\\_20\\_STM\\_Report\\_2015.pdf](http://www.stm-assoc.org/2015_02_20_STM_Report_2015.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> See the STM statement on sustainable (gold) open access: <http://www.stm-assoc.org/public-affairs/open-access-open-science/publishers-support-sustainable-open-access/>

<sup>4</sup> For example, many publishers provided free access to articles related to Zika in response to the emerging threat in 2016.

Publishers also enable the sharing of articles on a wide variety of non-publisher platforms:

- Many publishers have signed on to STM's Voluntary principles for article sharing<sup>5</sup> to reflect their commitment to enabling the broadest possible use of articles, and have worked with authors to ensure they understand how they can share their articles<sup>6</sup>;
- In response to funder mandates, many publishers have expanded gold OA initiatives or relaxed green OA policies<sup>7</sup>
- Through the collection of programs within the Research4Life initiative,<sup>8</sup> articles are made available at no or low cost to researchers in the developing world.

Upon request, or in coordination with broad-based initiatives, free access can be provided to individuals by publishers:

- Most publishers provide access for journalists, free upon request for those who want to report on published research findings<sup>9</sup>;
- Many publishers provide free or at nominal cost to self-identified patients and caregivers, through publisher-specific initiatives;
- Many publishers work with health organizations to provide free access to identified articles of interest
- Many publishers are involved in other efforts to provide access to those with an identified need (e.g. the Emergency Access Initiative<sup>10</sup>).

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.stm-assoc.org/stm-consultations/scn-consultation-2015/>

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.howcanishareit.com/>

<sup>7</sup> See the STM statement on green open access: [http://www.stm-assoc.org/2017\\_05\\_01\\_STM\\_Position\\_Green\\_OA.pdf](http://www.stm-assoc.org/2017_05_01_STM_Position_Green_OA.pdf). Many publishers also work with funders or institutions to populate repositories (e.g. PMC) or support tracking systems for publications.

<sup>8</sup> Research4Life (<http://www.research4life.org>) includes Hinari (Research in Health), AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture), OARE (Online Access to Research in the Environment) and ARDI (Access to Research for Development and Innovation).

<sup>9</sup> For example, Elsevier <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/free-access-to-sciencedirect-for-journalists>, BMJ <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-media>, and AGU <https://news.agu.org/agu-press-subscriptions/> have explicit policies that make it easy for journalists to register and obtain free access.

<sup>10</sup> A partnership of publishers and the US National Institutes of Health, EAI (<https://eai.nlm.nih.gov/docs/captcha/test.pl?url=>) provides temporary free access to full text articles from major biomedicine titles to healthcare professionals, librarians, and the public affected by disasters.