

## **What is open access and how does one participate?**

“Open access” (often abbreviated as OA) is a term commonly used for a rapidly growing movement in academia that promotes free availability and unrestricted use of research and scholarship.

Open access literature is digital, online, free of charge to the reader, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions, so there are no price barriers (such as subscription costs) and no permission barriers (such as restrictive licensing policies).

Open access can be achieved by placing scholarly publications in online institutional repositories such as *Lake Forest College Publications*.

Open access policies generally apply to articles that appear in scholarly journals, but can also apply to book chapters, scholarly monographs and other types of scholarship.

## **Why is open access important?**

Open access allows faculty work to reach a wider audience, which can lead to increased exposure to scholarly work, more citations, and greater impact. Many supporters of open access believe it addresses entrenched problems with high prices and strict use and purchase terms imposed by the publishing industry on colleges and universities. Two other philosophies driving this movement are that much faculty research results from tax-payer funding and also that knowledge is a public good.

## **How does open access work?**

For open access to work, faculty members must agree to make their work available on the Internet where it can be searched and discovered. One way to do this is to publish in a fully open access journal. Another way is to grant Lake Forest College a nonexclusive license that allows the College to make available a version of the author's published, peer-reviewed journal articles in our institutional repository, *Lake Forest College Publications*, where the work will be preserved and made available for anyone to view.

## **What if the journal I'm publishing in isn't an open access journal?**

Many publishers have already begun to allow self-archiving in institutional repositories as part of their author's agreements. You may need to ask the journal publisher for an author agreement that supports this. You can also obtain permission to retain your right to put your article in a repository by adding an addendum to your author's agreement. SPARC (the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) can provide sample author agreements and other information via its website.

### **Does open access change peer review?**

No. All serious advocates of open access emphasize the importance and value of peer review.

### **Does open access affect peer review of my article?**

No. The process of peer review will continue to be determined by the practices of the journal.

### **Does open access affect copyright?**

Open access does not change the principles of copyright, only how the rights are allocated. The author of an article owns the copyright unless it is transferred to someone else, most commonly a publisher. Under open access, authors own the copyright have more control over how their scholarship may be used.

### **What if my publisher insists on retaining copyright and won't give permission for my work to be deposited in the repository?**

In such instances we won't place your work in the repository.

### **What if my co-author objects to depositing our article in *Lake Forest College Publications*?**

We won't place your work in the repository without your co-author's permission, although we don't expect this issue to come up often. Since many colleges and universities have already adopted open access resolutions, you may find that your colleague may ask your permission to place the article in his or her home institution's repository.

### **Will Lake Forest College ever sell articles for profit or allow others to do so?**

No. The College will not have, and cannot grant to others, the right to sell the articles for a profit or to sell a course pack or book containing the articles for a profit.

### **How do I know if I'm depositing the right version?**

Use the latest version you have that hasn't been formatted by the publisher. If you used Microsoft Word to write the article, it will probably be a Word docx. If the version you're looking at has the look and feel of the journal and the publisher's copyright notice on it, it's probably the wrong version.

### **Don't some publishers charge authors for making articles openly accessible?**

There are several types of open access, including green open access and gold open access. Depositing a copy of work in *Lake Forest College Publications* is an example of green open access (also called self-archiving), and does not result in extra fees. For gold open access, which is when an article is published open access on the journal's website, publishers usually require authors to pay a one-time article-processing charge (APC), as well as to complete any relevant Creative Commons license form (generally the CC BY license). The College's open access resolution is meant to address green open access.

### **What other colleges and universities have passed open access resolutions?**

Many colleges and universities around the world have adopted open access policies. Approximately 150 colleges and universities in the United States have adopted open access policies, including many liberal arts college such as Grinnell, Wooster, Allegheny and Hope Colleges.

### **What if I have questions or suggestions?**

Please email the LIT Digital Resources Task Force: [digitalresources@lakeforest.edu](mailto:digitalresources@lakeforest.edu)

*Sources include: MIT Libraries, Harvard University Library, Nature Publishing Group, Elsevier, University of California system.*