De-bunking Open Access Myths

De-bunking the myths around open access.

“Gold Open Access journals are of a lower quality than traditional subscription-based journals”

- High quality and reputable OA journals that go through the traditional peer-review process and editorial quality controls are listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ.org).
- Major indexing databases, such as Scopus, have also accepted numerous Open Access journals for inclusion.

“Uploading to Research Repository UCD breaks copyright”

- The vast majority of journals and publishers allow you to upload your final, peer-reviewed draft to Research Repository UCD.
- As a core service of the Repository every item uploaded is checked by Library staff to ensure that your journal or publisher’s copyright policy is never infringed.

“Open Access publishing will cost me money”

- Authors can upload an Open Access version of their work (while also publishing in a traditional subscription-based journal) on Research Repository UCD, at no cost.
- Alternatively there are many Open Access journals which do not charge article processing fees directly to authors.

“An Open Access journal does not have the same visibility as a non-OA journal”

- Open Access publishing increases the visibility of your research as there are no pay-walls.

“Open Access publishing will reduce the number of citations my paper will receive”

- The opposite is the case with studies showing that being openly accessible results in a positive citation impact.

“Can’t I just upload my papers to ResearchGate or Academia.edu?”

- You can but these are not “repositories” as they do not provide a long-term environment for your papers.
- Uploading PDFs of publications may also infringe publishers’ copyright policies.
- We recommend uploading the final peer-reviewed draft to Research Repository UCD and linking to this from third-party services such as ResearchGate.

“It’s more difficult to protect the rights of my work if it’s accessible to everyone”

- Your work is always automatically protected by copyright. If the work is published, copyright will be managed by your publisher.
- Whether published or unpublished, every item made available through Research Repository UCD is in copyright and covered by a CreativeCommons license (creativecommons.org) which allows them to be reused with proper attribution (citation), but only for non-commercial purposes.

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“Articles made available on Research Repository UCD are not the final version”

» While it is not the “published” version, it is the final version in that it is final post peer-reviewed version of your paper.

“Embargoes undermine the benefits of making papers Open Access”

» Many publishers do not impose any embargo on uploading papers to a repository or have embargoes that are in line with funders’ embargoes.
» Even with an embargo, OA papers have an ‘indisputable citation advantage’.

“I need to wait to upload my paper because there’s an embargo”

» The Library will manage embargo periods for you, no need to wait to upload to Research Repository UCD.


2 http://www.1science.com/oanumbr.html