

## FAQ for Sense of the Senate Resolution in Support of Open Access Publishing for California State University, Dominguez Hills Faculty Publications

### What is open access? Is it just sharing your work for free online?

Open access literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. PLoS has a great chart showing how openness exists upon a spectrum:

[https://www.plos.org/files/HowOpenIsIt\\_English.pdf](https://www.plos.org/files/HowOpenIsIt_English.pdf). A journal article published in an Open Access journal is considered OA and so is a version shared in an institutional repository.

### Do definitions of open access vary by discipline?

No but how open access is applied does vary by individual journal/publisher/repository and can be more common in some disciplines which rely heavily on journals. Here are some example of gold OA journals across disciplines: [PLOS One](#), [Collabra: Psychology](#), [BMC Biology](#), [Royal Society Open Science](#), [SAGE Open](#), [ACS Omega](#), [Cultural Anthropology](#), [College & Research Libraries](#), and [Duke Law Journal](#). Even if a journal doesn't publish all of their articles open access usually an author can retain rights to publish a copy of their article in an institutional repository (often called green open access).

### Why just encouragement from senate instead of an opt-out mandate like the University of California System?

The reasons are both philosophical and practical. On the practical side the UC System has a mandate to do so and significantly more staff working in the area of scholarly communications at the Office of the President instead of the individual campus level. The office has dozens of staff compared to one person at CSUDH with many responsibilities. The UCs proactively reach out to individual publishers informing them of the mandate and automatically ingest works at a scale we could not replicate. They even have a whole publishing enterprise (UC Press) which specializes in new models for open access publishing ([Luminos](#) for OA monographs and [two journals](#)). On the philosophical side the UCs have been working to shift the cultures on their campuses regarding Open Access for decades and we are just beginning these conversations on our campus.

### How does open access relate to peer-review?

There is a common misconception that open access journals are not peer reviewed. It is important to separate assumptions about peer review from business models. The question of whether or not a journal charges readers for access or authors to publish has no bearing on its ability to support authentic peer review practices. Many open access journals are peer-reviewed and there are closed or pay-walled journals which do not have authentic peer-review practices.

### What is the role of ScholarWorks?

ScholarWorks is an open access institutional repository built on a platform provided and maintained by the CSU Office of the Chancellor. ScholarWorks collects, maintains, hosts, and makes discoverable and accessible the scholarly and creative output of the CSUDH community. Some examples of materials that may be deposited into and hosted by ScholarWorks include faculty scholarship; open access, online, peer-reviewed journals created by the CSUDH community; electronic Master's theses; conference proceedings; field notes; data sets; and open educational resources. With the exception of some Master's theses, all scholarship ingested into ScholarWorks is freely and openly offered to the public for viewing and downloading.

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### **How would this resolution inform the RTP process?**

The short answer is that it doesn't. How scholarly and creative activities are defined is up to each department. This policy supports OA publishing generally across campus but it is up to departments to determine which publications are accepted within their discipline. Currently, our collection of various college and department RTP requirements do not explicitly endorse or penalize open access publishing instead describing specific types of works valued by the department (highly cited peer-reviewed journals for example).

### **What is a nonexclusive, irrevocable, non-commercial, global license?**

Traditional publishing most often assumes the copyright to your scholarly work via a copyright transfer agreement and the publisher or journal has the exclusive right to publish, unless other conditions are negotiated. One of the most important things to remember about OA publishing is that YOU, the author, retain the copyright. By granting nonexclusive rights to someone else you are providing them the right to reproduce and disseminate the materials in any format that is needed, but you can also provide this right to other entities including yourself. You may be most familiar with these rights in the form of a [Creative Commons license](#). Additional information on retaining your rights as an author can be found here:

<http://libguides.csudh.edu/author>

### **What does open access have to do with scam publications sometimes called "predatory journals"?**

Predatory publishing is a term for low-quality or scam publications and has [nothing to do with openness](#). [Berger and Cirasella](#) describe these publications as, "primarily fee-collecting operations—they exist for that purpose and only incidentally publish articles, generally without rigorous peer review, despite claims to the contrary. Of course, low-quality publishing is not new. There have long been opportunistic publishers (e.g., vanity presses and sellers of public domain content) and deceptive publishing practices (e.g., yellow journalism and advertisements formatted to look like articles)." For guidelines to consider while evaluating journals see <http://libguides.csudh.edu/publish> for additional resources.

### **Does this policy restrict where I can publish?**

No! The policy does not require publishing in an open access venue only that Academic Senate encourages faculty to make a reasonable effort to make a version of their work openly accessible via ScholarWorks or another repository.

### **If a publisher charges a fee for open access, do I have to choose that option?**

No. There is no requirement to use open access publications, only to try to get some version into an open access repository, if possible.

### **What does open access have to do with patents?**

If the scholarly article or other work describes an invention it is unlikely to be shared open access until patent rights have been preserved. Since faculty members opt-in to making their work open access there is no need to publish these works as open based on the faculty member's preference.