

Publishing in Open Access eJournals

A guide for Library and Information Science faculty

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This guide is designed to provide Library and Information Science (LIS) faculty with information about publishing their scholarly works in open access electronic journals (otherwise known as “eJournals”). It covers the following:

- **What is Open Access(OA)?**- A brief definition of OA.
- **Publishing in OA LIS eJournals**- How to go about publishing your work, including information on where to find scholarly LIS publications that are OA, and knowing your rights as an author.
- **Learn more about OA...**- Resources that can help you stay informed on OA issues and developments in scholarly publishing.

What is Open Access(OA)?

In general terms, OA refers to:

[Literature that is freely available]... on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited. ([Budapest Open Access Initiative](#), 2001)

In regards to scholarly publications specifically, OA refers to full-text research articles that are freely available online, typically through eJournals (as well as through author's self-archiving initiatives on personal Web sites and in institutional repositories).

Publishing in OA LIS eJournals

Step 1: Consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of publishing in an OA eJournal

There are a number of potential benefits and drawbacks to consider before you decide to publish in an OA eJournal.

Benefits of publishing in an OA eJournal:

- Your work will be widely available online to both scholars and the general public, many of whom do not have access to “pay-for-access” subscription journals.
- Many OA eJournals provide readers with immediate access to current content.
- OA can potentially increase readership of your work, and thus have a positive effect on citation rates and the overall impact your research has.

Drawbacks of publishing in an OA eJournal:

- Some OA publishing initiatives have more financial assistance and support than others, which can result in conflicts of interest and some disciplines and researchers receiving more exposure in quality-controlled OA eJournals than others.
- Arguably, many OA eJournals are not yet well-established or properly indexed, meaning that they hold less scholarly prestige, and may not therefore contribute positively to a faculty member’s tenure requirements, citation rates, or research impact.
- Some argue that the “pay-for-access” model in journal publishing is necessary in order to ensure a journal’s quality and longevity (e.g., to ensure facilitation of the peer-review process, long-term archiving, editing, indexing, advertising, and so on).

Step 2: Find scholarly OA eJournals that deal with LIS topics

If you are considering publishing in an OA eJournal, you will need to find one to submit your work to. While there is no definitive index of OA eJournals that deal with LIS topics, many relevant titles are listed in the following directories:

- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ)- Provides free access to full-text, scholarly, quality-controlled OA eJournals.
Find Journals: Search by KEYWORD- Type, for example, “library” or “library science” into the search box on the homepage and select *Find Journals*. Or search by SUBJECT- Select *Find Journals* from the left navigation, select *Expand subject tree*, scroll down and select a discipline of interest, e.g., *Library and Information Science*.
- [Ulrich's Periodicals Directory](#)- This comprehensive periodicals directory allows users to search specifically for OA content.
Find Journals: Select *Advanced Search*, select *Subject* from the drop down menu beside the search box, type in a subject (e.g., “Library and Information Sciences”), check off *Open Access* under *Features*, and select *Search*.
Note: Full access to Ulrich's is granted to members of the UWO community by searching for and accessing the directory in the [Library Catalogue](#).

Select scholarly LIS eJournals that are OA include:

- E-JASL: The Electronic Journal of Academic and Special Librarianship- Published by the International Consortium for the Advancement of Academic Publication (ICAAP), this refereed eJournal seeks to advance knowledge in all areas of academic and special librarianship.
- Evidence-Based Library and Information Practice- This peer-reviewed OA eJournal published quarterly by the University of Alberta Learning Services deals with library-relevant topics contributing to professional decision making.
- Partnership: the Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research- Published bi-annually, this vetted journal focuses on theory and practice regarding professional librarianship.

Once you have found an eJournal of interest, search its Web site for submission information. This is usually listed under linked topics such as “Information for authors” or “Submission guidelines.”

Step 3: Know your rights as an Author

Before submitting an article to an OA eJournal, it is important to know your rights as an author to ensure your academic integrity is maintained and to uphold any copyright agreements tied to your work.

Note the following:

- Look closely at an OA eJournal's copyright specifications, which are usually found on their Web site. OA publications tends to use [Creative Commons Attribution Licenses](#) that typically allow free use of their published content as long as the work is properly cited, giving credit to the author(s) and source.
 - If you want to submit a previously published article, ensure that you have permission to do so. Check with the publisher of the original article. You can also find information on many publisher's copyright agreements in [SHERPA/RoMEO](#). Search by either *Journal titles* or *Publisher names*.
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Still have questions?

If you require further information on publishing in OA eJournals that is not covered in this guide, please contact: Robyn Hall (rhall32@uwo.ca)

Learn more about OA...

The following online resources can help you stay informed about OA issues and developments in scholarly publishing both in Canada and internationally:

- [Create Change Canada](#)- An initiative led by the [Association of Research Libraries](#) (ARL) and [SPARC](#) (Scholarly Publishing and Resources Coalition) that advocates on behalf of innovative digital scholarship publishing opportunities and innovations, including OA.
- [Open Access News](#)- An up-to-date newsblog tracking major developments in the OA movement worldwide.
- [Open Access Now](#)- Launched in 2003 by BioMed, this newsletter provides information and analysis about OA including news, events, and resources.
- [SPARC](#)- Provides information on news, events, and resources related to the OA movement and innovations in scholarly publishing more broadly.
- [SPARC Open Access Newsletter](#)- Released monthly, this online newsletter tracks the OA movement through news and analysis.

Additional reading:

These books and articles are accessible through the UWO [Library Catalogue](#) and deal with pertinent issues around OA and scholarly publishing:

- Correia, A.M., & Teixeira, J. C. (2005). Reforming scholarly publishing and knowledge communication: From the advent of the scholarly journal to the challenges of open access. *Online Information Review*, 29(4), 349-364.

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the continuing evolution of scholarly publishing given the influence of Internet.

- Hall, G. (2008). *Digitize this book!: The politics of new media, or why we need open access now*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Call number: 5th floor Weldon Library book stacks- [Z286.O63H35 2008](#)

Hall's book explores new possibilities for scholarly publishing made possible through digital media, and calls for rigorous changes to the ways through which academic authority and legitimacy are structured and defined.

- Willinsky, J. (2006). *The access principle: The case for open access to research and scholarship*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. Call number: 5th floor Weldon Library book stacks- [Z286.O63W55 2006](#)

This widely read book questions the past, present and possible future of scholarly knowledge, calling for greater online open access to research and knowledge so that it might reach and benefit a greater audience.