Oncode Institute

*Outsmarting cancer
Impacting lives*

Open Access Publishing Policy

Oncode – April 2019

What is OA, and why is it important for Oncode?

Open access (OA) is a broad international academic movement that seeks free and open online access to academic information, such as publications. OA is also the term for a new business model for academic publishing that makes research information available to readers at no cost. It contrasts with the subscription model, in which readers have access to scholarly information, usually via a library, by paying a subscription.[1]

Oncode strongly encourages translating our research into benefit for the patient and society. In this context, we support widespread access to Oncode's cutting-edge research and knowledge to enable researchers, scholars, clinicians, policymakers, private and not-for-profit organizations, as well as the public, to use and build on this knowledge.
In addition to more traditional technology transfer models, Oncode supports open science practices of open data, open access (publications) and open source (software).[2]

In practice this means that publications in scholarly journals related to Oncode Research must be made accessible to the public through an 'open access' journal publication as quickly as possible, apart from other methods of publication. Copyrights may not impede the possibility to publish by means of OA.[3]

This policy also reflects the policies of bodies funding Oncode Institute. A common goal of Dutch funding bodies is to make it possible for all researchers in the Netherlands to publish OA by 2020.[4]

What are the OA publication options?

OA has two variants, 'Gold' and 'Green' OA. They are two different variants of the same principle: free access to scientific publications without the need for subscription to a journal.

In the case of **Gold OA**, publications are immediately fully accessible in their final published format. In that case, researchers pay a fee for publishing articles called the Article Processing Charges (APCs). This fee is meant to cover the cost of publication, which was in the past carried by the readers of a journal (through subscriptions).

The APCs can differ between journals, and even between article types within the same journal. Please check with the respective journal to be aware of those costs prior to submission.

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[1] http://openaccess.nl/en
[2] *Oncode Strategic Plan, 2017*
[3] *Affiliation agreement with Oncode Institute*
[4] *https://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/open+science/open+access+publishing*

There are two types of Gold OA journals. First, fully OA journals where all articles are openly accessible, and second, so-called 'hybrid' journals. The latter are traditional subscription journals that have introduced the option to make your article freely available upon publication by paying the APC. For 'hybrid' journals, in order to make sure your article is processed correctly, please indicate upon submission that you require OA. Note that this does not impact the peer review process.

In the case of Green OA, researchers publish their article under a traditional subscription model (no access without subscription), but a version of the article is also made accessible via a public database (for example, a university repository). Oncode strongly encourages Gold OA.

Gold and Green OA differ not only in terms of fee and access, but also in terms of copyright and user license, meaning the way that authors themselves and others can use the information published.

	GOLD OA	**GREEN OA** (SHARING SUBSCRIPTION ARTICLE)
FEE	Article Processing Charge (author pays)	No fee
ACCESS	Immediate and full open access to the final published article.	• Version of the article (e.g. accepted manuscript) posted in a repository. • Final published article can be shared with e.g. students or collaborators for personal use, including dissertations. • Embargo periods may apply.
COPY-RIGHT	Copyright remains with author, who signs a Creative Commons (CC) license. There are different CC licenses. It may differ per journal which one you can choose. See here for details on CC licenses.	Copyright is transferred to the publisher. Author retains rights as defined on publisher websites, which includes right to share the article for scholarly purposes as described above.

When does a researcher fulfill the Oncode requirement for OA?

Oncode researchers are strongly encouraged to publish under the Gold OA model. There are various Gold OA journals[5] and many traditional journals offer possibilities for Green OA or Gold OA on an article level (' hybrid' journals). An overview of the possibilities per journal can be found in the Sherpa/Romeo-database.

As part of its ongoing reporting process, Oncode will keep track of the accessibility of Oncode research publications. By complying with this policy, each Oncode researcher can contribute to the success and impact of the entire Oncode community.

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[5] *For directory of OA Journals, see https://doaj.org/*

How is OA for your (Oncode) research funded?

Depending on the journal, you may be requested to pay an APC. Researchers are expected to cover such fees from existing funding they received, including the Oncode Investigator's base funding. Note that some Dutch universities may have an agreement with specific publishers to cover OA fees centrally. Please check with your institution if it has such agreement.

Posting pre-prints of draft manuscripts

In addition to publishing in peer-reviewed journals, Oncode encourages the use of pre-print servers like BioRxiv. By doing so Oncode Researcheres make their findings immediately available to the scientific community and receive feedback on draft manuscripts before they are submitted to journals. Draft manuscripts can only be submitted before the manuscript is accepted by a journal. Please check with the journal you aim to submit to for their policy on this topic before posting your draft manuscript.

How does OA relate to FAIR?

OA and FAIR are often mentioned together as they both relate to open science principles. However, OA in this context refers specifically to making research publications widely accessible, whereas FAIR refers to good data management. It is a set of guiding principles to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable. Good data management supports knowledge discovery and innovation and subsequent data and knowledge integration within Oncode. Thereby, it enables reuse by the community after the data publication process.

Ideally, all research under the Oncode umbrella should be open (published as OA) as well as following FAIR guidelines. However, this does not mean that data are openly available or must be published alongside an OA article. Accessibility of data means that it has to be clear how the data can be accessed and under which condition.

Contact

For questions or comments regarding this policy, please contact Irene Kanter-Schlifke from the Oncode team at research@oncode.nl.