

FAQs About Open Scholarship

What is open scholarship?

Open scholarship is books, datasets, code, journal articles, and other research products made universally accessible without charge. Open scholarship improves the pace and quality of research, democratizes knowledge, and honors the *UN Declaration of Human Rights* assertion that “everyone” has the right to “receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Why is open scholarship important?

UVM understands open scholarship as part of a land-grant institution's obligation to disseminate knowledge. Open scholarship is fundamental to UVM's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Is open scholarship synonymous with low-quality or predatory journals?

No. The research community rejects predatory open-access journals and all publications that fall short of rigorous editorial standards. As a leading research institution, UVM embraces open scholarship governed by transparent peer review and rejects any ventures that diminish evaluative standards.

Why do we need open scholarship?

Most of the world lacks access to the scholarship and information upon which good research, policy, and civil society depend. Even those at prominent universities have less access to information every year due to decades of skyrocketing journal prices.

Does open scholarship benefit society?

Yes. Open scholarship increases readership, use, and impact of scholarly work. More people find and cite scholarship when fees do not prevent access. Open scholarship makes your research available to policymakers, non-profit institutions, practitioners, and citizens around the globe, contributing to better policy, better research, and healthier societies.

What can I do?

Share your articles in open repositories—even if you publish in paywalled journals. Some subscription-based journals request “author processing charges” (APCs) to move your typeset article from behind a paywall, but it is almost never necessary to pay to make the *content* of your article freely available. Options for publishing books in open models are emerging but still rare.

How does UVM promote open scholarship?

UVM is widely recognized as a leader in open scholarship, and it is striving to do more.

- The Faculty Senate is the first in the nation to pass a resolution calling on colleges and schools “to develop policies and procedures promoting open sharing of scholarly output” and to “review their incentive structures in hiring, reappointment, promotion, and tenure [RPT] to ensure alignment with open scholarship.” The Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship (HELIOS) touts this resolution as a model for universities.
- UVM is the first university in the US to establish a diamond open-access press—committed to meticulous peer review, scrupulous editing, and no charges to readers or authors. One new journal is live and several more are taking shape; a series of books is under development.
- In 2020, faculty fellows in the Gund Institute for Environment unanimously supported an open scholarship policy, pledging to make published articles freely available while retaining copyright.

What more can we do at UVM?

UVM is implementing a variety of strategies to support faculty, post-docs, staff, and students to embrace open scholarship:

- The provost and an ad hoc working group have developed Academic Success Goals and metrics to track the production and dissemination of open scholarship at UVM.
- In alignment with the Faculty Senate resolution, colleges and schools will explore revising their Review, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) guidelines to highlight and incentivize open scholarship.
- The university is creating opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to learn about open scholarship, including a partnership with NASA, which has developed a series of accredited modules on open publishing, data archiving, and pre- and post-prints.
- The university will develop recruitment strategies encouraging candidates to discuss their interest in and commitment to open scholarship.
- The University Libraries have appointed a scholarly communications librarian to assist with open publishing, data archiving, and distribution of research.

More About Open Scholarship

Required by 2025

Open scholarship is becoming the norm. By the end of 2025, US federal agencies will require that *all* publications and data produced with federal dollars are available freely at the time of publication. Learn and act now to get ahead of the compliance curve.

Three Types of Open Scholarship

Open scholarship advocates often speak about three types of open access:

1. Green Open Access – *Authors post free versions of their articles.* Almost every reputable journal allows authors to post some version of their articles to an open repository. Some allow immediate posting (with no embargo period) for a “pre-print” (a version of the article before peer review) or a “post-print” (a version following peer review but before typesetting). Pre-prints and post-prints allow you to share your research without paying.
2. Gold Open Access – *Authors pay publishers to make their articles free.* Authors often pay with money from grants, external funders, or their institution. Such funds are more accessible to some disciplines, people, and institutions than to others. As such, open scholarship advocates debate the extent to which this model promotes full open scholarship.
3. Diamond Open Access – *Neither authors nor readers pay.* A smaller, growing number of publishers (including the UVM Press) make content freely available from the outset, without requiring a fee from the author. Funding for these publications may come from government bodies, educational institutions, societies, and other organizations with a mission to promote scholarship. For examples of diamond journals, search the Directory of Open Access Journals (<https://doaj.org/>) and then limit your results by checking the box labeled “Without fees.”

Journal Prices Outpace Inflation

Journal prices have outpaced the Consumer Price Index by about 300% since 1986. The current model of publishing is unsustainable. ►

Eliminate Costs of Publishing

Make your work freely available without cost to you! Almost every major journal allows you to post a version of your article without paying fees to the journal. Here's how to do so:

1. Consult Sherpa-Romeo ([sherpa.ac.uk/romeo](https://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo)), which catalogs journals' posting policies and tells you which version of your article you may distribute *without payment to the journal*.
2. Then, if your journal does not automatically deposit your article, you can deposit it in:
 - a. UVM's open repository ScholarWorks (scholarworks.uvm.edu) -and/or-
 - b. Any number of disciplinary repositories (See v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opendoar for details.)

Your liaison librarian or Donna O'Malley, UVM's scholarly communications librarian, is eager to help: <https://library.uvm.edu/about/staff>

More Readers, More Citations

According to studies published between 2011 and 2021, open scholarship finds more readers and generates more citations.

- **2.6x-4.4x:** Increase in page views when articles are open.
- **115%:** Increase in downloads when articles are open.
- **8%, 18%, 1.24x:** Increases in citations to open articles.
- **10x:** Increase in online mentions when books are open.
- **2.7x:** Increase in downloads when books are open.
- **50%:** Increase in citations to open books.

