Establishing an open access journal:
New Journal of Physics (NJP)

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Open access: What does it mean?

- Scientific information is made freely available on internet servers.
- It can be read, downloaded, copied, printed, searched, without financial, legal or technical barriers. Only restriction on use is an obligation to attribute the work to the author.

Types of open access information:

- Peer-reviewed scholarly publications
- Research data
Benefits of Open Access in scientific publishing

“Open Access improves the pace, efficiency and efficacy of research, and heightens the authors’ visibility, and thus the potential impact of their work. It removes structural and geographical barriers that hinder the free circulation of knowledge and therefore contributes to increased collaboration, ultimately strengthening scientific excellence and capacity building.

Open Access enables re-use and computational analysis of published material, sparks innovation and facilitates interdisciplinary research, as well as scholarly exchange on a global scale.”

Science Europe, April 2013
What started the open-access movement?

- **Rise of the internet:**
  - unprecedented possibilities for dissemination of information
  - potential for easier and cheaper access

- **Traditional scientific journals:**
  - exorbitant price increases for paper journals in the 1990’s

- **“Copyright”**
  - the perception that the then current “copyright” practice impinged upon authors’ rights
An important milestone in the history of the open access movement:

Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

Signed on 22 October 2003 by the Max Planck Society, the Helmholtz Association and in the meantime by over 400 research organisations, institutes, academies and universities.

“In accordance with the spirit of the Declaration of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the ECHO Charter and the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, we have drafted the Berlin Declaration to promote the Internet as a functional instrument for a global scientific knowledge base and human reflection and to specify measures which research policy makers, research institutions, funding agencies, libraries, archives and museums need to consider …”
The “gold” route to open access:

- Peer-reviewed articles are published in internet journals.
- They are made available free of charge to the reader as soon as they are accepted for publication.
- Publication fee paid by “author”. Other models under discussion, e.g. SCOAP.
- “Hybrid” models possible: Journal operates on traditional subscription basis, but “author” pays a fee for open access option.
Open Access Journals Listed in DOAJ

- 2002: 26
- 2003: 611
- 2004: 1220
- 2005: 1848
- 2006: 2399
- 2007: 2997
- 2008: 3812
- 2009: 4535
- 2010: 5936
- 2011: 7372
- 2012: 8519
http://scholarlyoa.com/2012/12/06/bealls-list-of-predatory-publishers-2013/

Scholarly Open Access
Critical analysis of scholarly open-access publishing

LIST OF INDIVIDUAL JOURNALS

Beall’s List of Predatory Publishers 2013

By Jeffrey Beall

Released December 4, 2012

The gold open-access model has given rise to a great many new online publishers. Many of these publishers are corrupt and exist only to make money off the author processing charges that are billed to authors upon acceptance of their scientific manuscripts.

There are two lists below. The first includes questionable, scholarly open-access publishers. Each of these publishers has a portfolio that ranges from just a few to hundreds of individual journal titles.

The second list includes individual journals that do not publish under the platform of any publisher — they are essentially independent, questionable journals.
The “green” route to open access:

- Researchers (or their libraries) deposit copies of the peer-reviewed articles they publish (in traditional journals) in a document server, or “repository”.
- Access immediately upon publication or after an embargo period (depending on publisher’s policy). See Sherpa list.
- Final manuscripts or lay-outed versions? Again, depends on publisher.
- There are both institutional and subject-based repositories.
The New Journal of Physics (NJP) was set up jointly by the Institute of Physics and the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft in 1998. It was founded in the then radical belief that a peer-reviewed, general physics journal should be available that gives authors the possibility of enabling their work to be read free of charge anywhere in the world. This move must be seen against a background of price increases for many conventional journals in the 1990’s which had reached such drastic proportions that many university and institute libraries had started to cancel subscriptions.
Objectives:

• To publish free-to-read research articles of outstanding scientific quality

• To offer authors high article visibility and rapid publication

• To become the premier European research journal in physics

Financing:

NJP, as a gold OA journal, is financed by article charges, currently 1320 € per article with 25% reduction for DPG and IoP members. Other schemes are available or in the planning stage.
General features:

- No page limit, multimedia content, colour, copy edited.
- New feature (since Feb 2011): video abstracts.
- General scientific summaries encouraged.
- Focus “issues” to highlight topical, exciting work in specific areas of physics.
- Creative commons attribution licence (CC-BY) or other CC licence.
Number of articles published in NJP each year since launch
New Journal of Physics

Full-Text Downloads (by access year)
Journal quality (IF = 4.177)

Every paper is assessed by a member of the Editorial Board as well as two independent referees.

More than 70% of regular submissions are rejected.

19 of the 20 most highly cited institutes (ISI data) have published in NJP in the last 12 months.

Mean publication time 3 months. Fastest papers just a few weeks.

Editor in Chief: Eberhard Bodenschatz, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Dynamics and Self-Organisation, Göttingen. Very active Editorial Board with members from 18 countries.
Current impact factor is 4.177 – the highest gold OA journal in physics!

Third highest impact factor of all general physics, original research journals
Progress in Open Access: Funding agencies

UK: New policy November 2012: Research Councils UK support both OA routes with strong preference for “gold”, *if available*. Extra money for institutions. Very positive role of the *Wellcome Trust*.

Progress in Open Access: Funding agencies (contd.)

Germany: *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)* 2006, publication in “gold” or “green” OA recommended.

US: *National Institutes of Health (NIH)*, “green” OA after 12 months embargo. Now mandatory (2013). Publication in PubMed Central. *National Science Foundation (NSF)* until now no recommendation, but will have to follow recent directive of US Government.

Australia: *Australian Research Council (ARC)* January 2013: Mandatory “green” OA with 12 months embargo.
Concluding remarks: Concerns about “gold” Open Access:

- Article charges cause problems for several categories of scientist (e.g. colleagues in developing countries, in non-mainstream areas or those who are retired).

- Publishing may become more expensive for large “producers”, i.e. those with a high number of articles per institution.

- Some new OA journals are questionable (“Many of these publishers are corrupt …” Beal’s List of Predatory Publishers)

- The danger that standards will fall and, in particular, that peer review will no longer be so strict.