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Introduction

Introduction to Springer Nature’s open access agreements

Springer Nature is committed to accelerating the adoption of open access (OA) publishing and open research techniques. Having early and rapid access to research findings is fundamental to the advancement of science and discovery.

Springer Nature offers different types of OA agreements. These agreements cover hybrid and fully OA portfolios but the key focus of all these agreements is the coverage of publishing fees for authors from participating institutions.

Types of open access agreement:

Transformative agreements

Transformative agreements (TAs) enable institutions to combine subscription (reading) access along with OA publication fees in hybrid journals into a single licensing agreement.

- **Springer TAs**: cover OA publishing in more than 2,000 hybrid journals plus access to the Springer hybrid and subscription journal portfolio
- **Nature TAs**: cover OA publication and reading access in the Nature Portfolio hybrid journals.

Fully open access agreements

These are publishing-only agreements for fully OA journals across the BMC, Springer, Palgrave Macmillan and Nature Research portfolios.

To get your publication fees covered under an open access agreement

- You must be the corresponding author of the article.
- You must be affiliated with a participating institution.
- You must identify yourself during the author identification process (you will be asked to do this once your article has been accepted for publication).
The benefits of open access

1. **Increased citation & usage:** Studies have shown that OA articles are viewed and cited more often than articles behind a paywall.

2. **Wider collaboration:** OA publications and data enable researchers to carry out collaborative research on a global scale.

3. **Greater public engagement:** Content is available to those who can't access subscription content.

4. **Faster impact:** With permissive licences like CC BY, researchers are empowered to build on existing research quickly.

5. **Increased interdisciplinary conversation:** OA journals that cross multiple disciplines help researchers connect more easily and provide greater visibility of their research.

6. **Compliance with open access mandates:** OA journals comply with major funding policies internationally.

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Author workflow for publishing open access under an agreement

Workflow for Authors

1. Article accepted
   Article is accepted for publication in a hybrid or fully OA journal. The corresponding author receives an email invitation to complete the publication process for their article.

2. Article identification
   Authors identify themselves by one of three data elements:
   - Selected institution
   - Institutional email
   - Location

3. Selecting OA
   For articles that have been identified as eligible to be covered by an OA agreement, the corresponding author will be presented with confirmation that they can publish OA with their fees covered.

4. License
   The author is asked to agree to an OA creative commons license (CC BY for the majority of Springer Nature journals)\(^\text{^}\) on behalf of all co-authors.

5. Publication
   The OA article is freely available for anyone in the world to read, share and re-use.

\(^\text{^}\) Other licenses available on request.

If you are a corresponding author affiliated with a participating institution, you may publish your article OA with your fees covered, in Springer Nature journals that are included in the agreement. Check the list of journals included: springernature.com/oaforauthors
Springer Nature open research white papers

Open research white papers

Through case studies, market research and analysis of our own portfolio data, we are committed to showcasing and illustrating the impact of publishing openly. We continue to take an evidence-based approach to open research practices, as evidenced by the white papers we have produced.

Access and download our white papers here
Springer Nature advances discovery by publishing robust and insightful research, supporting the development of new areas of knowledge and making ideas and information accessible around the world.

Thank you for reading

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