Open Scholarship at the University of Melbourne

Publisher Open Access

Open Access Publications, Part 2

**Video transcript**6 February 2023

# Introduction

Hello and welcome to our second video on open access publications. In this video, we're going to look more closely at publisher open access.

Let's start with the open access pathways diagram from our last video, which distinguishes between publisher open access and repository open access.

We're going to focus, here, on how you can pursue the publisher open access pathway, whether that's through fully open access publishers or hybrid publishers, and whether you're paying open access publishing fees, finding a publisher without fees, or using an open access publishing agreement.

# Finding Open Access Journals and Publishers

We'll begin with some tips for finding fully open access journals and book publishers.

One of the best places to go to find a fully open access journal is the Directory of Open Access Journals, or the DOAJ. The DOAJ has strong quality control measures in place to guard against predatory publishers. It can be searched or browsed by discipline and clearly displays each journal's open access publishing fees, also called Article Processing Charges, or APCs. It's worth noting that almost 70% of journals in DOAJ do not levy APCs, which means they're free to publish in, being fully funded by universities or research societies.

Other journal lists, like the Scimago Journal and Country Rank, can also be filtered to show open access journals.

There are also a fair number of fully open access book publishers out there too.

For example, the Australian National University's ANU Press was Australia's first fully open access University press and has now published over 1000 open access titles.

Even though most will levy Book Processing Charges, or BPCs, to cover open access publishing costs, some are covered by external funding, as is the case for Open Book Publishers and Open Humanities Press.

If you're looking for an open access book publisher, it might be worthwhile exploring the Directory of Open Access Books, or DOAB, for some ideas on where to publish. Note, though, that the directory includes books published by fully open access publishers as well as hybrid publishers, and does not contain information on the costs facing authors when publishing.

# Open Access Publishing Agreements

As I noted earlier, many publishers levy open access publishing charges, but these can sometimes be avoided when open access publishing agreements have been signed between institutions and publishers.

The University of Melbourne has open access publishing agreements in place with a range of major and minor journal publishers.

Under these agreements, corresponding authors affiliated with the University of Melbourne can avoid the out-of-pocket open access publishing charges levied by many journals.

Details on all agreements can be found on the [Open Access Publishing page](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/open-scholarship/open-access-publishing/) of our Open Scholarship website. It is worth checking on this website occasionally as new agreements may be signed and existing agreements may not be renewed in coming years.

Now, some general notes on eligibility and how to make use of these agreements.

Each agreement varies in the scope of journals and article types covered.

Some agreements exclude the publisher's fully open access journals, only covering hybrid ones, and there are usually a few fully closed journals that aren't covered because they don't publish open access.

Some publishers may also exclude specific imprints or collections. Usually only specific article types, such as research articles and review articles, are covered by the agreements. Other contributions, such as commentary or opinion pieces, may not be eligible.

Also, some agreements are capped, meaning that only a limited number of articles have their fees covered each year. Articles published after the cap has been reached will be paywalled (unless APCs are paid).

It is important to check the limits exclusions of the agreements carefully.

For an article to be eligible, its author (or its corresponding author in the case of multi-author works) must be affiliated with the University of Melbourne. In general, publishers confirm eligibility by checking, first, the corresponding author's affiliation statement, and second, the corresponding author's email address - they will check it matches the domains of the specified institution. It is important that you do not use a personal or non-university email address on submission to the journal, as this will make proving eligibility for the agreement much more difficult.

In most cases, authors need to opt in to open access publishing and choose a Creative Commons license, which is usually done when signing the author agreement upon article acceptance.

Again, details on the eligibility criteria for each agreement can be found on our Open Access Publishing webpage, along with the steps on how to use each agreement.

# Open Access Publishing Charges

Finally, just a few more words on open access publishing charges.

As we noted earlier, some open access journals and book publishers - and all hybrid journals and publishers - levy open access publishing fees to authors.

However, some publishers offer article or book processing charge discounts for corresponding authors affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

It's worth noting that the University does not have central funds available for open access publishing. So, if this paid pathway is something that you want to pursue, it would be best to discuss this with your faculty research office or grant providers.

When publishing in a hybrid journal not covered by our open access publishing agreements, the university would prefer that authors pursue free repository open access rather than pay an APC.

And it's this free pathway that we'll be exploring in the next video.

# Outro

Thank you for joining us for this video.

If you'd like to find out more about how to pursue open access publishing, you can visit our [Open Research guide](https://unimelb.libguides.com/openresearch/) or [Open Scholarship website](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/open-scholarship/).

Our [Scholarly Publishing guide](https://unimelb.libguides.com/Scholarly_publishing) is also an excellent resource for evaluating journals and publishers and contains advice on avoiding predatory and unethical publishers.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact your faculty or subject liaison librarian, or reach out to the Scholarly Communications team.

# Contact a librarian

For enquiries relating to open scholarship, including open access, open research, and open educational resources (OERs), please email your discipline's [Liaison Librarians](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/liaison), or arrange a time to [consult a librarian](https://unimelb.service-now.com/student?id=sc_cat_item&sys_id=6398b1e1dbc763c00032cae43a961971&category_id=2768ae9d4fae22807861a90f0310c7f0).

Alternatively, you can [contact the library](https://library.unimelb.edu.au/contact_the_library) by emailing [library-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:library-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au).