



International  
Further & Higher Education  
& Research Conference

**Ghana**  
14-16 November 2016

## **DRAFT Policy Statement on Open Access in Further and Higher Education and Research**

1. The public good is served by the widest and most accessible dissemination of scholarly work and educational material. This can be facilitated when scholars and educators make their work available in reputable open access venues.
2. Open access refers to the practice of making scholarly work and educational material freely available for any person to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, index, access through disability adaptation, or link to the full texts of materials, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers.
3. Green open access involves authors placing their articles in freely accessible online institutional or disciplinary repositories. Gold open access entails authors publishing in dedicated open access, online journals. Hybrid open access journals allow open access only to articles for which a publishing fee has been paid.
4. Academic freedom includes the right of authors to choose how and where their research is disseminated. This freedom must not be constrained by government or institutional policies that require publication in open access journals.
5. Scholars and educators should retain copyright in their work to maintain its integrity, to ensure proper acknowledgement and citation, and to allow self-archiving in institutional or disciplinary repositories. Institutions should ensure that scholars and educators are able to exercise full discretion in the copyright of scholarly work. Publication agreements with journals and publishers should always permit self-archiving.
6. Some non-open access journals restrict for fixed periods of time the release of articles into open access repositories. Such embargos contradict the general principle of scholarly communication that all new knowledge should be made available at the earliest possible moment. If such embargo periods do exist they should be set at a maximum of six months with a view to their eventual elimination.
7. Many open access journals cover costs, such as costs for ensuring quality standards and peer-review processes through article processing charges, which shift the financial contribution from subscribers to authors. Such fees must be recognized as eligible research funding expenses and should be reflected in the contracts of scholars and academics. Alternative financing models such as targeted public subsidies should also be considered.
8. “Predatory” open access journals that provide minimal services and exist to profit from article processing charges leverage against the opportunities for scholarly communication offered by hybrid open access journals, undermine the integrity of peer review, and are a threat to the best principles of the open access movement.



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9. Open access should not be used by governments or institutions to reduce library expenditures. Any savings from decreased journal subscription costs must be fully reinvested into research and scholarly communication, including library acquisitions and funds for paying article processing charges incurred by academic staff.

10. Education International and its further and higher education and research affiliates can promote open access by:

- a) encouraging members to publish in open access journals or by practicing self-archiving;
- b) discouraging members from publishing in, or serving as editors for, journals that do not support open access;
- c) negotiating criteria for renewal, tenure, and promotion that fully recognizes open access scholarship; and
- d) critiquing predatory publishers as a form of academic fraud;