Frequently Asked Questions about the Open Access Policy

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The new Open Access Policy can be found on the Moore Foundation [website](#).

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1. What is open access?

Open access (OA) research literature is digital, online, free of charge, and immediately available with no price or permission barriers. There are two main paths to making research articles OA; these are usually referred to as "Green" and "Gold" OA, distinguished in the table below. To understand the differences, it's helpful to know there are three types of journals:

1. Closed - no content available immediately without restrictions or barriers (login, subscription, fee, etc.)
2. Fully OA - all content available immediately without restrictions or barriers
3. Hybrid - authors can pay to make content OA; some of the journal's content will remain restricted

	OA Publishing (Gold)	OA Repository (Green)
What kind of journal?	OA journal or Hybrid journal	Any journal, as long as a copy is archived in an OA repository (a database that stores free copies of published research)
Costs	Usually $1000-$3000 per article	Usually free
What content is open	Original article, including journal-added content	Peer-reviewed manuscript openly available; original is not necessarily open
When it's open	Immediately	Sometimes embargoes

2. Why is the Moore Foundation adopting a new policy?

Most research published in peer-reviewed journals is not publicly available. Instead it is behind "paywalls" that require institutional subscriptions, or charge per-article fees. This system makes research inaccessible to many, including the public, journalists, researchers between institutions, and researchers from institutions that cannot afford subscription costs (e.g., many universities in underdeveloped countries). The movement towards making all research openly available has been gaining momentum in recent years, and many funders have begun to enact policies that encourage or mandate open access to results of research they support.

3. How does this differ from the foundation's prior policy?

The foundation's Data Sharing and Intellectual Property Policy generally favors public access to grant outputs, and applies to the many different outputs that result from our grants. This new Open Access Policy applies these general principles to a specific type of grant output:

foundation-funded research published in peer-reviewed scholarly or professional journals. Also, the Data Sharing and Intellectual Property Policy encourages open access to research outputs, but it does not require or mandate this. The new Open Access Policy requires open access for peer-reviewed research in journals, rather than merely encouraging it.

4. What materials does this apply to?

In section (a) of the Open Access Policy, it states that the policy applies to "peer-reviewed articles produced as a result of research supported, either in entirety or in part, by the foundation's funding." Other research outputs (books, web publications, data, software, etc.) are still subject to the Data Sharing and IP Policy, but are not covered by this policy.

5. Are some journals off limits?

No. Most journals are fully compatible with the new policy. For those very few journals that don't allow post-print archiving of non-OA articles, grantees would need to discuss getting an exception with their program officer.

6. Are there exceptions allowed?

Section (d) in the policy states

> "If a grantee believes that the open access requirement would hinder grant impact, the grantee should contact their program officer about a potential exception to this policy, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis."

This will be left to the discretion of the program officer.

7. When does the policy take effect?

The policy will be incorporated into all new grant agreements issued on or after May 1, 2017. It does not apply to pre-existing grants, but we encourage grantees to consider open access.

8. How does it compare with other funders' policies?

US federal agencies: funders including NSF, NIH, DOE, and NASA all have policies similar to the one we have adopted. They require grantees to deposit an open version of the manuscript in a designated repository within 12 months of publication.

Other private funders: Policies vary among other private funders. HHMI, the American Heart Association and Wellcome Trust all have policies that require green open access compliance. Some go further: The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation requires immediate open access (no

embargo), and Wellcome Trust requires all publications be available within six months (compared to the 12 months in our policy).

9. How will the foundation enforce this policy?

The policy states that "Grantees will be expected to include URLs to OA versions of all articles in grant reports listing publications resulting from funding." We are working to provide easier ways for grantees to share this information as part of their normal reporting.

10. Who will pay fees?

The "Green OA" option of archiving a copy in an OA repository is free. Grantees interested in making articles "Gold OA" will be expected to pay related fees out of their grants. Section (b) states:

> "Fees associated with publishing OA can be paid with grant funds."

Going forward, for new grants expected to result in peer-reviewed papers, budgets should include funds to cover fees for OA publishing and archiving, to be included as fee-for-service charges.

Flowchart for complying with the Moore Foundation's Open Access Policy

I want to publish my manuscript in Journal X.

Is Journal X fully OA?

— Yes → Great, that's Gold OA, and the journal complies with Moore's policy! You can use grant funds to cover any fees for OA.

— I don't know → Check if it's listed in the DOAJ. The DOAJ is the Directory of Open Access Journals. doaj.org

— No ↓

Do you plan to pay a fee to make your article OA in Journal X?

We encourage this, but it's not required.

— Yes → Great, that's Gold OA, and the journal complies with Moore's policy! You can use grant funds to cover any fees for OA.

— No ↓

Will Journal X allow you to deposit a final, peer-reviewed version of your manuscript in an OA repository at the time of publication?

— Yes → Great, that's Green OA! To comply with Moore's policy, deposit a post-print copy in an OA repository.

Lists of OA repositories are available at roar.eprints.org & www.opendoar.org

— I don't know → Visit Journal X's website or SHERPA/RoMEO to find out Journal X's policy on post-print archiving.

SHERPA/RoMEO is a database of publishers' OA and self archiving policies www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

— No ↓

Will Journal X allow you deposit a final, peer-reviewed version of your manuscript after an embargo of 12 months or less?

— Yes → Great, that's Green OA! To comply with Moore's policy, deposit a post-print copy in an OA repository.

— I don't know → Visit Journal X's website or SHERPA/RoMEO to find out Journal X's policy on post-print archiving.

— No ↓

Journal X does not comply with Moore's policy. Please select another journal or talk to your program officer.