

# Open Access: good intentions and harsh realities

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Open-access literature is **digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions**. OA removes *price barriers* (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and *permission barriers* (most copyright and licensing restrictions).

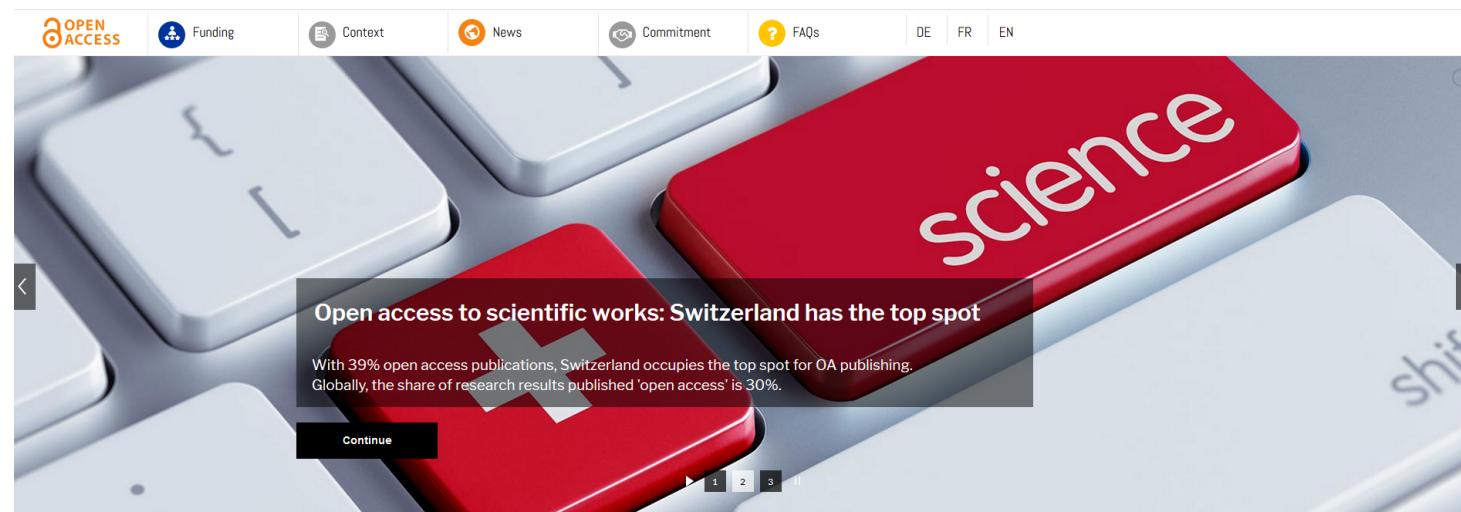
<https://go.epfl.ch/OpenAccess>

# SNSF OA Commitment

SNSF grantees are in principle required to publish the results of their research\* in Open Access publications

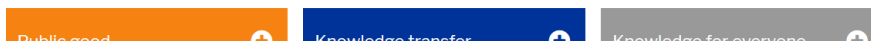
\* The OA commitment shall apply if the SNSF provided 50% or more of the funding

<https://oa100.snf.ch/en/home-en/>



## Open access – the new normal

Do you receive funding for your research from the SNSF? If so, you are obliged to make the resulting publications available to third parties free of charge. Research results funded with public money belong to the public. Free digital access is good for science, the economy and society as a whole. And it will make your work more visible and more impactful. Apply to the SNSF for an open access publication grant now.





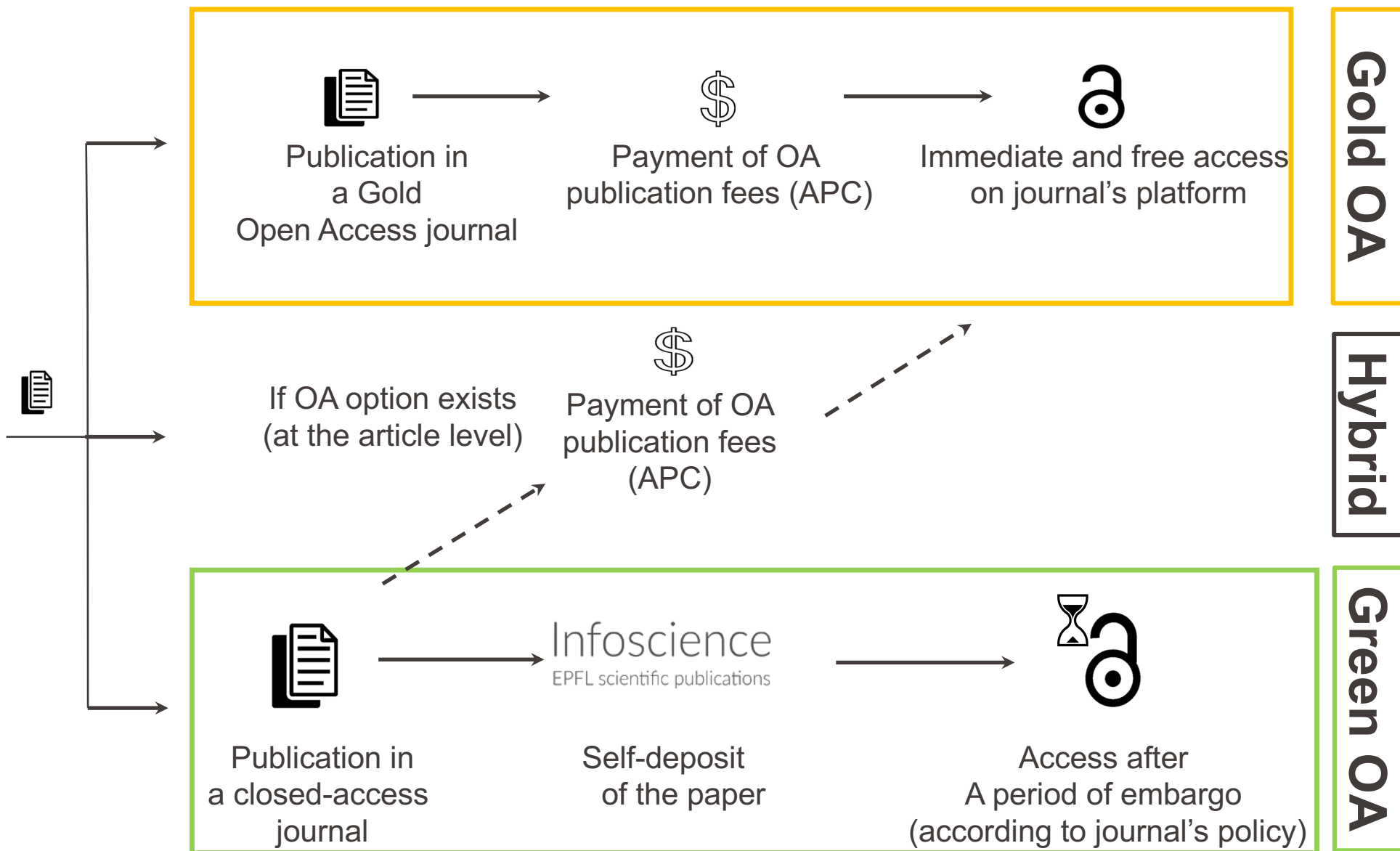
# Open Access everywhere

**SNSF:** *"Research findings funded with public money belong to the public. Everyone should be able to access them electronically and free of charge, and to make use of them if they so wish. The researchers themselves stand to benefit the most from open access: their results will be seen by more people. And they will have unrestricted access to the publications of their colleagues. This will be a big step forward for science. Industry and society will also benefit from gaining swift access to the latest scientific knowledge."*

**Plan S:** *"With effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo."* <https://www.coalition-s.org/>

**Swissuniversities:** *"Taking account of the principles expressed above, the Swiss National Strategy on OA aims to achieve the following objective, in accordance with international benchmarks: by 2024, all scholarly publication activity in Switzerland should be OA, all scholarly publications funded by public money must be freely accessible on the internet. The OA landscape will consist of a mix of OA models."*  
[https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/Dokumente/Hochschulpolitik/Open\\_Access/Open\\_Access\\_strategy\\_final\\_e.pdf](https://www.swissuniversities.ch/fileadmin/swissuniversities/Dokumente/Hochschulpolitik/Open_Access/Open_Access_strategy_final_e.pdf)

**EPFL:** <https://www.epfl.ch/about/overview/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/LEX-3.5.1.pdf>



# OA Requirements: SNSF & EPFL

- **Green OA** : Publication in a closed-access journal and deposit of an accepted version of manuscript often **no later than 6 months after publication (12 months for books and book chapters)**, in a repository, institutional (EPFL: Infoscience) or disciplinary
- **Gold OA**: Immediate publication in OA after payment of an Article/Book Processing Charge (APC/BPC) by the researcher, or research institute or funding agency

# Gold OA and research visibility

- "There are no good Open Access journals (in chemistry)"

ACS Central Science IF2018 12.837, RSC Chemical Science 9.556 ; Nature Communications 11.878

- "There are no good Open Access journals *in my specific field of chemistry*"

Arguable, but the situation is evolving: RSC Chemical Biology ; various MDPI journals with IF 2-4

Start your own journal? <https://www.magnetic-resonance-ampere.net/>

- "I need to publish in the highest-IF journals as possible to support my career"

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) is directed against the unduly use of publication metrics in the assessment of scientific work (Cambridge, ETH Zurich, EPFL have signed DORA)

# Open Access costs: who pays?

- "I don't have any budget to pay for APCs"

**SNSF:** "Please note that the SNSF does not support the "hybrid" publication model because researchers who publish in a subscription journal have to pay an additional APC to release their publication for Open Access. The SNSF does not cover this type of publication cost because access to the scientific results is paid for twice ("double dipping"). However, the SNSF's Open Access requirement is met by adopting this approach."

**EPFL Library:** "[...] Pure Gold OA publications immediately available online without restrictions at the time of publication or conference [...]" <https://go.epfl.ch/OAsupport>

- "But my article was accepted in {FAMOUS SCHOLARLY SOCIETY}'s {REPUTABLE JOURNAL}!"

**Most funders:** Sorry but no. Under the current circumstances, taxpayers would pay twice (APCs AND subscription rates still rising as usual)

=> Negotiation of transformative agreements at the institutional or national level



# Green Open Access: the embargo problem

- EPFL: "[...] the authors must deposit all their publications in the institutional archive Infoscience and provide access according to the publishers' policies no later than 6 months after publication [...]"
- Elsevier Journal Embargo Finder: Chemistry & 0 or 6 months "It doesn't look like there are any results for that combination, please alter your search criteria"

**Institutions:** add contract amendments (not very successful so far for EPFL authors)

**Publisher(s):** ask for institutional waiver (EPFL will certainly not give you one)

- What about Chemrxiv?

Preprints are now allowed by major publishers in chemistry (ACS, RSC, Wiley-VCH...) but they do not meet the funder's requirements for OA.

**EPFL**

