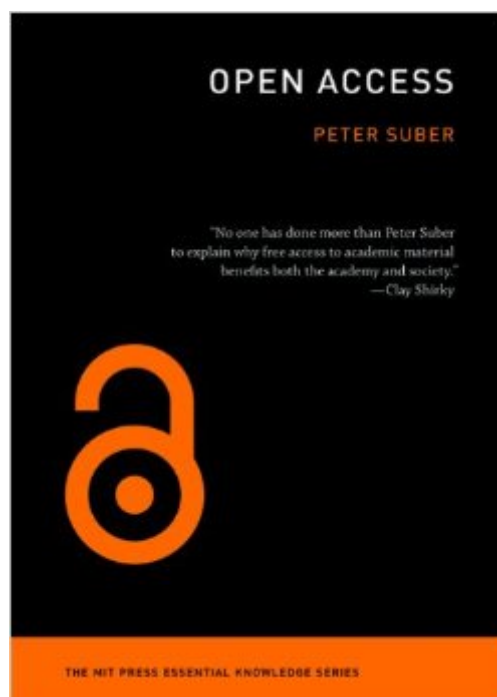


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# Open Access (The MIT Press Essential Knowledge Series)



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The Internet lets us share perfect copies of our work with a worldwide audience at virtually no cost. We take advantage of this revolutionary opportunity when we make our work "open access": digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. Open access is made possible by the Internet and copyright-holder consent, and many authors, musicians, filmmakers, and other creators who depend on royalties are understandably unwilling to give their consent. But for 350 years, scholars have written peer-reviewed journal articles for impact, not for money, and are free to consent to open access without losing revenue. In this concise introduction, Peter Suber tells us what open access is and isn't, how it benefits authors and readers of research, how we pay for it, how it avoids copyright problems, how it has moved from the periphery to the mainstream, and what its future may hold. Distilling a decade of Suber's influential writing and thinking about open access, this is the indispensable book on the subject for researchers, librarians, administrators, funders, publishers, and policy makers.

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It comes down to this. I am a taxpayer and a physician. It makes me madder than Hell to have to pay \$35.00 to read a single PDF of a journal article when my tax dollars already paid for the research. I have started several scientific companies and I need access to research papers to inform me and my team but since I am not a faculty member of a research institution, I do not have

free access to the articles.... except occasionally. And that experience seems to be more common lately. The reason? Peter Suber and others like him who have been pushing Open Access to scholarly publications for some time. And it's gaining traction. You should know about this important movement in opening up scientific knowledge. I am new to the open access issue even though I have published a number of academic papers. I had some misconceptions about what it was and I was very ignorant of the issues surrounding it. When I did a little research on my own, I found that the major publishers get all their content for free (the articles), and free volunteers to peer review the papers, yet they charge enormous sums of money to the libraries for the subscriptions, and soak the individual who wants to read a few papers. Peter Suber's book is terrific. It is short and easily readable in a couple of sittings. That said, he is very thorough and clear at explaining what Open Access is, and why it benefits both the author, the research enterprise and society. He takes a step by step look at open access that will take someone new like me through the topic and at the end make me feel like I understand it quite well. It is broad and thorough enough, however, that someone reasonably familiar with the topic will achieve a deeper knowledge of Open Access.

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