What is Open Access (OA)? (1)

• “Open Access” to information is the free, immediate, online access to the results of peer-reviewed scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results as needed.

• OA has the power to transform the way research and scientific inquiry are conducted. It has direct and widespread implications for academia, industry and for society as a whole.
What is Open Access (OA)? (2)

• OA has the potential to maximize research investments, increase the exposure and use of published research, facilitate the ability to conduct research across available literature and enhance the overall advancement of scholarship.

• Research funding agencies, academic institutions, researchers and scientists, teachers, students and the general public are supporting a move towards OA.
• Publication (by journal) of peer-reviewed or final version of research is published in OA by a publisher (OA Journals).

• Readers do not pay to access this material as the research organization and/or researchers pays article-processing charges (APC) to the journal publishers to peer-review the material and make it available in OA.

• Researches should opt to publish in Journals supporting OA.
Researchers/academics submit an electronic copy of peer or non-peer reviewed work in an IR, in most cases with an embargo period.

An embargo refers to the delay in the release of an article before it is made available in OA. This period can be agreed upon between the researcher and the publisher.

Some publishers request embargo periods, arguing that these protect the value of the journal subscriptions they sell.
FAQs about OA (1)

Peer review
• Are OA articles peer-reviewed?
  ◦ Some researchers mistakenly think OA equates to self-publishing or vanity publishing – that they have to pay to have an article peer-reviewed and published. This is not the case. OA journals employ the same peer review practices as traditional, Closed Access journals.

Plagiarism
• "I worry about OA because it is so much easier to steal someone else's text on-line, and publish it as one's own, than it is to do so on-paper".
  ◦ This is again a matter of probability: Yes, "it is much easier to steal someone else's text on-line, and publish it as one's own, than it is to do so on-paper," but it is also much easier to detect such thefts on-line.
FAQs about OA (2)

Copyright
• Do authors lose their copyright when publishing in OA?
  ◦ OA publishers do not have any copyright restrictions at all: they allow the copyright to remain with the author of an article and they permit the author to do anything he or she wants with the article, including making unlimited numbers of copies for distribution, using them for teaching and so forth.

Article Processing Charge (APC)
• Who is going to pay the APC attributed with Gold OA publishing? The author/researcher or funding institution?
  ◦ Many institutions have APC budgets to pay for research being published in OA. With regards to EU projects such as Horizon2020, APC should have been added with the application for the grant. OpenAIRE have implemented an APC post-grant for FP7 projects.
OpenAIRE 2020 (1)

• Funded by the Horizon2020 Programme

• OpenAIRE aims to support the implementation of OA in Europe. It provides the means to promote and realize the widespread adoption of the Open Access Policy as set out by the European Research Council (ERC) Scientific Council Guidelines for Open Access and the Open Access pilot launched by the European Commission.

• This will facilitate researchers and project coordinators ability to comply with the EC Open Access Policies in Horizon2020.
OpenAIRE 2020 (2)

- Facilitates access to the entire OA scientific production of the European Research Area by providing cross-links from publications to data and funding schemes
- Strengthens and extends the European network of liaisons with regards to OA and repositories
- Investigates issues and conducts studies on practices and principles of OA
- Extends and operates Helpdesks to provide community support services
- Presents the OpenAIRE 2020 data model and content management services
- Offers content analysis and text mining tools and services
- Provides all end-user researchers with advanced functionalities for data access, enhanced publication management and data curating
- For more information on OpenAIRE please visit www.openaire.eu
Who will benefit from

• The University of Malta
• Author(s) and Creator(s)
• End-Users
• The Library
OPEN ACCESS WILL:

• showcase the research being created by the University of Malta community thus enhance the visibility and prestige of the institution itself and of the researchers/authors themselves

• preserve the research activities, teaching material, records of events and performances created during the life of the institution

• serve as easy access to the research outputs and sharing of digital documents which are published by the academia

• provide OA to their copyright owned material which sometimes is difficult to retrieve

• increase the collaboration and the sharing of research between local and foreign scholars

• 24/7 access to the material full-text articles and material which is not available through any other channels, particularly unpublished works such as dissertations, conference proceedings and grey literature
What is the University of Malta doing with regards to OA?

1. In September 2014 the University of Malta launched the first Institutional Repository on the Island.

2. The UoM Library is in the process of compiling the University of Malta Institutional OA Policy.
What is OAR@UoM

- OAR@UoM was launched with the aim to collect, preserve and disseminate the intellectual output of the UoM in digital format.

- OAR@UoM includes:
  - articles, books and book chapters, audio visual content, out of copyright material and other scholarly content most of which are available in OA.
  - electronic theses and dissertations (ETDs).
  - national intellectual output important to Malta’s cultural heritage and identity.

[https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/](https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/)
1 year later (1)

4000 AUTHORS
35 COMMUNITIES
8500 SUBJECT HEADINGS
1 year later (2)

Journals available on OAR@UoM in OA:

- Maltese Medical Journal and the Malta Medical Journal published by the Faculty of Medicine & Surgery
- Bulletin of Entomological Society of Malta published by the Entomological Society of Malta
- Xjenza published by the Malta Chamber of Scientists
- Images in Paediatric Cardiology indexed in PubMed
- Journal of Malta College of Family Doctors published by Malta College of Family Doctors
- Malta Journal of Health Science published by the Faculty of Health Sciences
In Process

- **International Journal of Emotional Education** published by the Centre for Educational Resilience and Socio-Emotional Health

- **Think Magazine** published by the Communications and Alumni Relations Office

- Articles with a Maltese connection published by the Office of the European Union
Knowledge, Support, Innovation...

1 year later (4)

Items available

- Articles (1279)
- Thesis (1563)
- Books (98)
- Book Chapters (48)
- Audio Recording (276)
- Other (313)

Data as per end of September 2015
For any questions about OAR@UoM please contact the OAR Team

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