Towards universal Open Access: what we can do about it, and who should do it.

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Part 1:
Six things we can do about OA
What we can do 1: publish our work open access

At this point, if your work isn't OA, you're an idiot.
The Open Access citation advantage

Citation-advantage meta-analysis of Swan (2010)
27 of 31 studies of the OACA found an advantage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of OA citation advantage when found (and where explicitly stated by discipline)</th>
<th>% increase in citations with Open Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics/astronomy</td>
<td>170 to 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>35 to 91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>-5 to 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical engineering</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer science</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political science</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>300 to 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications studies (IT)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural sciences</td>
<td>200 to 600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average advantage: 176% (2.76 x)
What we can do 1: publish our work open access

Swan, Alma. 2010. The Open Access citation advantage: Studies and results to date.
What we can do 1: publish our work open access

--------- Two equally valid approaches ---------

**Gold open access**
Publish in open-access journals

**Green open access**
Deposit peer-reviewed postprint in a repository
What we can do 1: publish our work open access

**Gold:** publish in open-access journals (see http://doaj.org)
PLOS, PeerJ, BMC, Hindawi, many individual journals
Sidebar: how to avoid paying an APC
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Publish in a journal that does not charge an APC.
— or —
Ask the journal for an APC waiver.
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Sidebar: how to avoid “predatory OA publishers”
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Do not give your work to a predatory OA publisher.
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Do not give your work to a predatory OA publisher.
Do you read the journal?
If not, publish in one that you do read.
Sidebar: how to avoid “predatory OA publishers”

Do not give your work to a predatory OA publisher. Do you read the journal? If not, publish in one that you do read.
What we can do 1: publish our work open access

**Green**: deposit peer-reviewed postprint in a repository

Institutional repo, arXiv, PeerJ Preprints, biorXiv
Sidebar: how long an embargo is acceptable?
No embargo is acceptable.

Come on. It's obvious. The goal is to get the work out there.
Sidebar: how long an embargo is acceptable?

No embargo is acceptable.

Come on. It's obvious. The goal is to get the work *out there*.

Is this unfair to publishers?

*They* are supposed to be serving *us*!
The Publishers Association “decision tree”

1. Research publicly funded?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Gold OA option available from your publisher?
   - Yes
   - No

   a. Are APC funds available from research funder?
      - Yes: Immediate Gold OA
      - No: Green OA after 6 months (AHRC/ESRC after 12 months)

   b. Green OA after 12-24 months
A much better decision tree

The accepted manuscript has not been copy-edited or typeset. As this stage it is solely the work of the author together with a volunteer editor and volunteer peer-reviewers.

Publishers have no moral or legal claim over it. It's yours.

Just deposit it in a repository.
What we can do 2: review for OA journals

Reviewing is professional-grade work.

If paid professionally, it would cost more than £100 per hour.

Let's invest it where it can do some good.

We do not owe paywalled journals our free labour.
What we can do 3: edit for OA journals

Academic editing is professional-grade work.

If paid professionally, it would cost more than £100 per hour.

Let's invest it where it can do some good.

We do not owe paywalled journals our free labour.
What we can do 4: advocate OA policies

In your department
What we can do 4: advocate OA policies

In your department

In your university
What we can do 4: advocate OA policies

In your university

In your scholarly society

In your department

In your university
What we can do 4: advocate OA policies

In your university

In your department

In your scholarly society

Among your co-authors
What we can do 5: deprecate journal rank

Journal rank is either:
– Based on impact factor ("statistically illiterate", Stephen Curry)
– Subjective based on history

Both are biased against new journals
⇒ biased in favour of traditional journals

We must judge papers on their own merits, not their venue.

Fig. 2: No association between statistical power and journal IF.
Case-study: citations of 17 of my papers
Case-study: citations of 17 of my papers

Impact factor of venue

Regression slope = −0.13
Case-study: citations of 17 of my papers

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica
IF = 1.58, 56 citations

Regression slope = −0.13
Case-study: citations of 17 of my papers

- Acta Palaeontologica Polonica
  - IF = 1.58, 56 citations

- PaleoBios
  - No IF, 21 citations

Regression slope = −0.13
Case-study: citations of 17 of my papers

Acta Palaeontologica Polonica
IF = 1.58, 56 citations

PaleoBios
No IF, 21 citations

Regression slope = −0.13

Nature
IF = 38.6, 1 citation
What we can do 5: deprecate journal rank

Recruiting/grants based on author's papers' journal rank
Are statistically illiterate

Like judging people on the label of their clothes.
What we can do 6: talk about Open Access

“Talk about” can mean …
– blogging
– tweeting
– in a pub
– in the department kitchen

Must he constantly go on about open access?
Summary:
Six things we can do about OA

1. Publish our work open access
2. Review for OA journals
3. Edit for OA journals
4. Advocate OA policies
5. Deprecate journal rank
6. Talk about Open Access
Part 2:
who should take responsibility for OA
Every career-stage has excuses

Students: just getting started
Postdocs: have to establish a reputation
Tenure-track: can't do anything to damage my tenure case
Senior: won't change a system that has been good to them
Someone has to break the cycle

Early-career neuroscientist Erin McKiernan:

If publishing in #openaccess journals costs me my career, then this is not the career I want. Period.
Someone has to break the cycle

Digital-humanities Ph.D student Scott Weingart:

Scott Weingart › Robstacle
18 January 2013 2:03pm

@Robstacle - Enough idealistic students like us, and maybe something will actually change, rather than just having us all live in a self-perpetuating system which we all know is flawed but are too worried about our careers to do anything about.
Someone has to break the cycle
“If not you, who? If not now, when?”
— attributed to Rabbi Hillel The Elder, 1st century Jewish scholar
Towards universal Open Access:
what we can do about it,
and who should do it.

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