

FAQ Open Access articles

What is gold, green and hybrid open access?

- **Gold open access:** author makes the final version of an article freely and permanently accessible for everyone in a gold open access journal. In some cases, the author pays an Article Processing Charge, while there is no subscription to access to the journal.
- **Hybrid open access:** publication of an article in a subscription-based journal which offers an open access option that authors can choose if they wish, by paying additional fees. This option is not funded neither by the SNSF nor by USI.
- **Green open access:** self-archiving of a version of an article into a repository making it freely accessible for everyone. The version that can be deposited into a repository is dependent on the funder or publisher, which might also set an embargo period.

What types of costs related to the publication of open access articles are covered?

- The SNSF and USI cover only the costs related to the publication in a gold open access journal. Costs for hybrid open access are not covered. Gold open access journals are listed on <https://doaj.org/>; in case of any doubt please contact Ms. Janice Casarella (Janice.casarella@usi.ch) in advance. Additional costs as for page charges, fees for color printing, etc. are also not covered.

Which specific agreements between USI and publishers are in force for the hybrid open access?

- Costs for Hybrid open access are not covered, but the USI libraries have recently signed Read&Publish agreements with publishers Elsevier, SpringerNature, Karger, Sage, Taylor&Francis and Wiley which allow USI researchers to publish Hybrid articles at no cost (for additional information see [here](#)).

How do I get SNSF funds to cover open access publication costs?

- The SNSF only covers costs of open access articles related to SNSF-funded research. An application must be submitted through mySNF after the publication. The SNSF prefers to pay costs directly to the publisher; invoice must be attached to the application. Funds can be requested also after the end of the respective project. Ms. Janice Casarella (janice.casarella@usi.ch) is available to help you preparing the application.

Is the publication on a high-quality peer-reviewed traditional journal still accepted?

- Yes. Researchers are free to make their own choices in respect of their scientific publications. After the embargo period, you can then deposit a version of the article into a repository to fulfill the SNSF or EU requirements in terms of open access. The SNSF accepts a maximum embargo period of six months for OA publication of articles and twelve months for books and book chapters.

How can I find a good gold open access journal?

- Researchers may consult the “Directory of Open Access Journals” website, DOAJ, which is a community-curated online directory of high-quality, Open Access, peer-reviewed journals. <https://doaj.org/>. If the selected Gold Open Access journal is not listed in DOAJ, it is advisable to contact the SRIT or the USI libraries for advice.
Please pay attention to predatory journals that request publication fees without peer-review services and transparent editorial procedures.

Which repository can be used to self-archive an article (green open access)?

- The institutional repository for researchers at USI is RERO DOC. Please send the file to be deposited together with abstract and keywords to OA-BiUSI.ch@usi.ch. Publications can then be deposited also in other repositories or personal websites.
Please note that the repository must be freely accessible for everyone, without registration. Academic social media like *Academia* or *ResearchGate* do therefore not satisfy the requirements in terms of open access.

The SNSF is checking the open access status of publications that results from its funding. How can we meet the requirements?

- To fulfill the open access requirements, the SNSF accepts publication in gold open access journals, publication in hybrid journals (accepted but not funded) and also self-archiving in a repository after publication in a subscription-based journal (green open access).
If your article has been published in a traditional subscription-based journal you can upload a version of the article on a repository after the given embargo period.
- The institutional repository for researchers at USI is RERO DOC. Please send the file to be deposited together with abstract and keywords to OA-BiUSI.ch@usi.ch. Publications can then be deposited also in other repositories or personal websites.
Please note that the repository must be freely accessible for everyone, without registration. Academic social media like *Academia* or *ResearchGate* do therefore not satisfy the requirements in terms of open access.

Which obligations and rights exist with regards to Open Access at USI?

- USI recently released its Open Access Policy Guidelines, which describe the requirements from researchers and the services offered by USI in the context of publishing the results of academic research. The full document can be accessed here:
<https://content.usi.ch/sites/default/files/storage/attachments/segretario/segretario-open-access-policy-guidelines.pdf>