

## Open Access Bangladesh (OAB) is Going to Arrange “**International Open Access Conference, Dhaka- 2018**”



**OPEN CON 2018**  
**DHAKA**

### OABB Desk:

Open Access Bangladesh (OAB) in collaboration with Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) is going to arrange International Open Con, Dhaka-2018 on February 17 this month. The day-long conference will be held at the Daffodil International University auditorium in Dhaka city.

In its inauguration ceremony **Mustafa Jabbar**, Minister of the Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology, Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh, will be presented as chief guest. While **Professor Dr. Yousuf Mahbubul Islam**, VC, Daffodil International University and **Professor Dr.**

**Mohammad Mahfuzul Islam**, VC, Canadian University of Bangladesh will be the special guest.

After tea break a motivational speech will be given by a young researcher from University of Berlin. Later on, a panel discussion on *How to publish your article on the Open Access Journal* will take place with the participation of senior academicians and professionals from home and abroad.

After lunch break on its second session, there will be another panel discussion on *Impact of Open Access in Digital Era*. A number of academicians, media personalities and professionals are expected to participate on this session.

The program will end with the inauguration program of Open Access Bulletin. At its closing ceremony **N M Zeaul Alam**, Secretary In-Charge, Ministry of Information Cabinet Division, Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh will be staged as Chief Guest and special guest will be **Professor Dr. Yousuf Mahbubul Islam**, VC, Daffodil International University.

Academicians, researchers and students from all spectrum are cordially welcome to participate in the conference through the registration for free from the Open Access Bangladesh (OAB) Website (<http://www.openaccessbd.org/>) from February 01, 2018. As of our understanding, this conference will add spices to promote research activities and acceleration for achieving mission and vision of knowledge based digital Bangladesh.

## Message from **Joseph McArthur**



The way we communicate research is stuck in the dark ages, we use a print-based model in the digital age. And yet, research provides the foundation of

modern society. Research can lead to breakthroughs, and communicating the results of research is what allows us to turn breakthroughs into better lives—to provide new treatments for disease, to implement solutions for challenges like global warming, and to build entire industries around what were once just ideas.

At SPARC, through OpenCon, we're working to set the default to Open for how we communicate research. We strive for Open Access. Open Access is the free, immediate, online availability of research articles coupled with the rights to use these articles fully in the digital environment. Open Access ensures that anyone can access and use these results—to turn ideas into industries and breakthroughs into better lives.

Open Access as an idea is built on the values of the internet itself. Values that tell us to share information freely, not artificially lock it behind a price-tag. Open Access also builds on the values of scholarship, which remind us that it's not science until someone else can see your working, repeat your steps, and build upon it.

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### **Joseph McArthur**

Assistant Director: [Right to Research Coalition](#)

Co-Lead/Founder: [Open Access Button](#)



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## Editorial

We are happy to announce the very first issue of quarterly **Open Access Bangladesh Bulletin**. In the journey of Open Access Bangladesh this is the first initiative of such kind.

Our mission is to generate awareness and popularize the OA movement amongst academicians, researchers, scholars and professionals as well as to become the voice of this noble movement in this country.

We are expecting your cooperation in our journey to take this movement in a new level. Thank you very much.



<http://www.openaccessbd.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/OpenAccessBd/>



<https://twitter.com/OpenAccessBD1>

## A Bold Open-Access Push in Germany could Change the Future of Academic Publishing

Over the past 2 years, more than 150 German libraries, universities, and research institutes have formed a united front trying to force academic publishers into a new way of doing business.

**Instead of buying subscriptions to specific journals, consortium members want to pay publishers an annual lump sum that covers publication costs of all papers whose first authors are at German institutions.** Those papers would be freely available around the world; meanwhile, German institutions would receive access to all the publishers' online content.

In Germany, an agreement with Elsevier seems elusive. But Germany's consortium, named Projekt DEAL, plans to hold firm, and it thinks a successful outcome could help trigger what some call a "big flip," a global transition toward open access. "If it works, it would be a model for the rest of the world," says one negotiator, mathematician Günter Ziegler of the Free University of Berlin.

The proposed "publish and read" deal would not only make German research more accessible but also reduce costs.

The German delegation is guided by a simple formula: **Take the number of papers with first authors at German institutes put out by a publisher and multiply that by a reasonable fee per paper.** That's what Germany should pay the publisher—and the total is likely to be much lower than current spending on subscriptions.

After several months of negotiations, SpringerNature and Wiley seem open to the model. But negotiations with Elsevier have proven more difficult.

To succeed, German negotiators must be willing to walk away without an agreement. "In the end, this is about patience," Degkwitz says.

Source : <https://goo.gl/pRC7Ji>

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## DOAJ Launches the DOAJ Best Practice Guide

DOAJ has launched the DOAJ Best Practice Guide.

The Guide is a web resource that provides selection criteria, resources and tools for the identification of reputable open access journals to support researchers, publishers and librarians in their search of best practice and transparency standards. It is also an attempt to collect discussions about open access to publications and its development. It is developed by, and updated regularly by, the DOAJ team based on existing and new information.

The Guide complements the work of the DOAJ Ambassadors as well as academics, librarians and publishers worldwide. Based on the information provided on the 'For Publishers page' on the DOAJ website and the 'Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing', the Guide aims to do the following:

- Highlight issues surrounding questionable publishing practices;
- Provide a checklist of criteria to help identify questionable publishers based on guidelines for editors working with applications to DOAJ;
- Identify other tools that assist in making informed decisions on where to submit articles for publication. based on the 'ThinkCheckSubmit' initiative;
- Contain case studies and examples gathered by DOAJ over 13 years of operation.

Initial work with the Best Practice Guide was funded by IDRC as part of the 'Ambassadors' program'.

Source: <https://goo.gl/xpmwd2>

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## African Scientists Get Their Own Open-Access Publishing Platform

The African Academy of Sciences will launch this year AAS Open Research, an open access publishing platform, meant to exclusively serve researchers in the continent. The platform is based on F1000Research model. It will adopt post publication open peer-review process. This approach will remove time lag researchers face to publish their research output. AAS Open Research will be an alternative platform for young African researchers who usually face challenges to publish their research out on overseas journals.

Publishing on AAS Open Research is not free. Publishers will ask up to €200 Article processing charges (APCs). The publisher hopes that research funders will make funding available for APCs.

*Source: <https://goo.gl/yevc4N>*

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## American Chemical Society Wins Lawsuit against Sci-Hub

The American Chemical Society (ACS), a nonprofit scientific society and academic publisher, has won its lawsuit against Sci-Hub, a widely used pirate site for scientific papers that was established in 2011 by former neuroscientist Alexandra Elbakyan.

In June 2017, ACS brought its case against Sci-Hub for unlawfully disseminating its copyrighted content. In November 3, Judge Leonie Brinkema of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a default judgment in favor of ACS, granting all of its requests, including \$4.8 million in damages and a broad injunction that requires organizations such as Internet service providers (ISPs), search engines, and domain name registries that are actively associated with the site to censor it.

*Source: <https://goo.gl/zLHEb5>*

## Science Piracy Site Sci Hub has been Ordered to Shutdown

Sci Hub, a famous piracy site for scientific papers, has been ordered to close by a US judge.

Launched in 2011, the website frames itself as a challenge to what it views as unfair restrictions on who can access academic papers. "At this time the widest possible distribution of research papers, as well as of other scientific or educational sources, is artificially restricted by copyright laws," it wrote on its website. "Such laws effectively slow down the development of science in human society ... At the moment, Sci-Hub provides access to hundreds of thousands research papers every day, effectively bypassing any paywalls and restrictions."

But this has, understandably, irked academic publishers, and the American Chemical Association (ACS) brought a case against it.

*Source: <https://goo.gl/xXD1r7>*

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## Publishers Threaten to Remove Millions of Papers from Research Gate

Millions of articles might soon disappear from ResearchGate, the world's largest scholarly social network. Five publishers said they had formed a coalition that would start ordering ResearchGate to remove research articles from its site because they breach publishers' copyright. A spokesperson for the group said that up to 7 million papers could be affected, and that a first batch of take-down notices, for around 100,000 articles, would be sent out "imminently".

Meanwhile, coalition members Elsevier and the American Chemical Society have filed a lawsuit to try to prevent copyrighted material appearing on ResearchGate in future. The complaint, which has not been made public, was filed on 6 October in a regional court in Germany. (ResearchGate is based in Berlin). It makes a "symbolic request for damages" but its goal is to change the site's behavior, a spokesperson says.

*Source: <https://goo.gl/5Zk1Dn>*

## articles

### How to Identifying Predatory Publishers!

#### DECIDING WHERE TO PUBLISH

**Get started early.** While it's often an afterthought, consider where to submit your manuscript early on, says Andy Pleffer of Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. "Think about it up front so you've got a longer lead-in time and you can create a longer list of where you might publish. Especially if you've got a particular journal on your radar, they might have a special issue coming up that ties in quite neatly with your particular expertise."

**Scan the TOC.** Are there any familiar names in the journal's table of contents? Do you recognize any members of the journal's editorial advisory board?

If the answers to both are no, it's probably worth looking into alternative titles, says Chad Cook of Duke University.

**Read the journal's policies.** Familiarize yourself with the publication's peer-review process, author fees, and policies pertaining to copyright, access, and conflicts of interest. All should be clearly outlined on the journal's website.

**Beware of "Contact us."** While not always a sign of a suspect publication, journals that do not list editorial staff phone or email contact information—instead, offering only a "contact us" form—is "usually a red flag," says Pleffer.

**Check DOAJ.** Look to see if the publication is listed

in the Directory of Open Access Journals and other scholarly databases, and is indexed on PubMed or by the Institute for Scientific Information. If it's not, proceed with caution.

#### SHOULD YOU JOIN THE BOARD?

**Have you published in the journal?** If yes, how was the overall experience? If no, have any of your colleagues or your collaborators' colleagues?

**Email overload.** "If you get an invitation through email, be extremely suspicious," says Jeffrey Beall, a librarian at the University of Colorado Denver. "Most high-quality journals don't go looking for editorial boards through email. It's usually the other way around: people want to serve on a particular journal's editorial board, and they will send an email to the journal."

**Standing members.** Examine the journal's existing board. Do you recognize any names? Are any of the board members senior scientists? "What I noticed from the beginning was that there were really no well-known people [on the board]. A lot of the people were junior people, like myself," the University of Kentucky's Björn Bauer says of his experience with *Pharmacologia*. Additionally, do the board members list their participation with the journal on their CVs or biosketches? "If they back that up on their profile, that's generally a good sign," says Pleffer.

Source: <https://goo.gl/Gbi6z1>

### Salient characteristics of potential predatory journals

- ⇒ The website contains spelling and grammar errors
- ⇒ Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized
- ⇒ The homepage language targets authors
- ⇒ The Index Copernicus Value is promoted on the website
- ⇒ Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking
- ⇒ Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email
- ⇒ Rapid publication is promised
- ⇒ There is no retraction policy

- ⇒ Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent
- ⇒ The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., < \$150 USD)
- ⇒ Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright
- ⇒ The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)

Source: <https://goo.gl/3qLYwa>

## Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Response to Reviewers

**Rule 1:** Provide an overview, then quote the full set of reviews

**Rule 2:** Be polite and respectful of all reviewers

**Rule 3:** Accept the blame

**Rule 4:** Make the response self-contained

**Rule 5:** Respond to every point raised by the reviewer

**Rule 6:** Use typography to help the reviewer navigate your response

**Rule 7:** Whenever possible, begin your response to each comment with a direct answer to the point being raised

**Rule 8:** When possible, do what the reviewer asks

**Rule 9:** Be clear about what changed relative to the previous version

**Rule 10:** If necessary, write the response twice

Source: <https://goo.gl/YVqMCD>

## Debunking the myths of Open Access

**Myth:** Open Access journals are not peer-reviewed.

**Reality:** Most OA journals conduct peer-review, just like their subscription brethren. An inspection of the website of a journal helps you tell if the journal is doing quality work.

**Myth:** Publishing in Open Access journals is the only way that peer-reviewed articles can be Open Access.

**Reality:** There are two routes through which OA can be delivered – gold OA is through journals and green OA via repositories. The belief that all OA articles are gold hasn't been true since the beginning of the OA movement and, in fact, in almost all fields, OA publication in green.

**Myth:** Publishing in Open Access journals is expensive.

**Reality:** Costs for publishing in OA journals are

often on par with page charges or color figure fees in subscription journals.

**Myth:** Open Access authors pay author-side fees themselves.

**Reality:** A study carried out by the Study of Open Access Publishing (SOAP) revealed that <15% of author-side fees are paid by the authors themselves; the vast majority of these fees are covered by funders and occasionally by universities.

**Myth:** Sending my best work to an Open Access journal will harm my career.

**Reality:** OA publication can be the best way to get your work out there. It's often faster, disseminated more broadly, and could even be more highly cited.

**Myth:** Publishing Open Access means giving up the widely-recognized brand names that colleagues respect.

**Reality:** Many of the largest funders now require OA publication, and no publisher wants to exclude

good work. You can still publish in Cell, Science, or Nature – just pick the open access option when your article is accepted.

**Myth:** Traditional publishing prevents authors from making that same work available through Open Access channels.

**Reality:** Many traditional publishers actually allow authors to follow through on green OA routes, and others will do so upon request.

**Myth:** I have my pre-prints on my website (or in a repository, like arXiv). I don't need Open Access.

**Reality:** You are in fact already practicing OA – a form called “green OA” to distinguish it from paid “gold OA” – Congrats!

**Myth:** Academic freedom is restricted when authors are forced to publish Open Access.

**Reality:** While this may hold true for gold OA, it certainly doesn't for green! Green routes are entirely congruous with traditional, non-oOA publication. For this reason, it is important to ensure clarity between gold and green OA, especially in the context of OA mandates that may be imposed upon researchers.

*Source: <https://goo.gl/e1jXJR>*

## blogs

### Free Reading Zones

#### ***Sponsoring ebook access for wider readership***

By Mirela Roncevic

Free Reading Zones (FREZ) is the name of a project which turns public and private spaces into open virtual libraries, providing people with free and uninterrupted access to ebooks



through sponsorships. Readers in the zones can download a free reading app that identifies their locations in several ways and gives them free access to digital books while they are physically inside the zone. A FREZ can be as small as a single building and as large as a city or an entire country.

The basic idea is to open books for reading in areas where sponsors have a vested interest in getting exposure. As we've learned from the music industry, the fastest way to get people to consume content in a new environment is by making that content freely accessible through sponsorships—think of enjoying music on YouTube or Spotify. Readers don't pay, but that does not mean publishers are not getting their fair share. Others are picking up the tab because they see the value in being part of the project.

Although sponsoring organizations are covering the cost of reading in return for some public recognition, the app is not inundated with ads the way YouTube videos are. In fact, the sponsor is prohibited from advertising inside the zone. It only gets to greet the reader through a simple flash screen when the app is launched.

The business model relies on technology that can measure each user's reading and pays publishers an amount based on what participants actually read. The app recognizes when a person is actively engaged with the text, not just flipping through the pages, and calculates what percentage of each book is read. FREZes benefit publishers, authors, and software companies because they are paid through a merit-based business model, but it also benefits end users by exposing them to more culture, information, and educational content. When users enter a FREZ, they are presented with many titles in a wide range of categories by an abundance of authors and publishers. The reader gets to decide what content to consume and when.

By engaging in a cutting-edge initiative like FREZ—which does allow for instant, simultaneous, and uninterrupted access to a book—libraries can reaffirm their relevance in the highly mobile 21st century and show true leadership, a willingness to embrace change by stepping outside their comfort zones, and an enthusiastic acceptance of new technology.

*Concise from <https://goo.gl/BQsqXX>*

## ●●● List of Open Access Databases Useful for Researchers ●●●

- <https://scholar.google.com/>
- <http://www.jstor.org/>
- <https://eric.ed.gov/>
- <https://www.mendeley.com/>
- <https://www.ssrn.com/en/>
- <http://crl.acrl.org/index.php/crl/index>
- <http://ereseach.ozyegin.edu.tr/>
- <https://www.base-search.net/>
- <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/>
- <http://ww8.bdresearch.org/>
- <https://www.doabooks.org/>
- <https://www.osti.gov/scitech/>
- <https://www.scienceopen.com/>
- <http://www.openoar.org/index.html>
- <https://doaj.org/>



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