

Open Access Monographs and MIT Press



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Why Open Access in the Sciences

Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002)

An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds.

Contrasting Books and Journals

	Books	Journals
Are the Authors Compensated?	Yes	No
Are the Peer Reviewers Compensated?	Yes	No
How is Impact Typically Measured?	Critical Reviews, Sales, and increasingly Social Media	Citations and increasingly Social Media
Are Grant Funds to cover APCs available?	No	Yes
Is Electronic-only publication common?	No	Yes
Fields where this form of publication is central.	Humanities and Social Sciences	Science and Engineering

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