

Butler University Open Access Policy FAQ's

Q: What is open access?

A: "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." ([SPARC](#))

Q: Why do we need an open access policy?

A: Universities and grant institutions provide funds to faculty to conduct research and report those results in journal articles. When the results are ready for publication, publishers require the copyright and will publish the article at no charge to faculty. Often other researchers will peer review these articles. Once the publisher owns the copyright to the article, they are able to profit from the article. For example, Elsevier's profit margin actual exceeds Google's^{1,2}. Then the publisher sells back the articles, often part of very expensive packages, to libraries. Many students, researchers, and others cannot access the articles they need and libraries cannot afford to buy into these "big deals" with publishers.

An open access policy provides many advantages to faculty. It allows faculty compliance with research funder policies. The articles are shared internationally, without fear of copyright implications from other countries, and it also allows for greater discoverability. With greater discoverability, comes more citations.

Q: Do other schools have an open access policy?

A: Yes, many universities model their open access policy after the [Harvard Open Access Policy](#) from their Office of Scholarly Communication, including Butler University. Their policy is the accumulation of experience from multiple institutions that have drafted open access policies. Institutions, such as the University of Texas, University of California system, University of Chicago, Duke University, and Oberlin University have adopted open access policies. Indiana institutions, such as Indiana University, IUPUI, Notre Dame University, Wabash College, and DePauw University have also adopted open access policies.

Q: What publications are affected by the open access policy?

A: Under the policy, faculty grant Butler University permission to make versions of their scholarly journal articles available to [Digital Commons @ Butler University](#). This policy only applies to journal articles. Faculty will submit versions of their article manuscript to Digital Commons @ Butler University by email to Library staff. Library staff will abide by embargos, outlined by the publishers, and post the copyright approved version of the article.

Q: What does this mean for Butler University faculty?

A: Since its inception in 2008, [Digital Commons @ Butler University](#) participation has been opt-in; this policy flips it to opt-out. Of the articles reported in the Butler faculty 2017-2018 FARs, faculty published in 113 different journals, only 4 of which do not already have a policy allowing author self-archiving (after an embargo). In 2017-2018, Butler faculty published in 16 fully open access journals. This policy will also earn points towards [Butler University's Sustainability rating \(STARS\)](#).

Q: Does this policy affect where I can publish?

A: No. The policy will not impact where faculty choose to publish; it simply asserts the right for the university to self-archive on behalf of faculty when allowed by the journal's own policy.

Q: Who can I contact if I have more questions?

A: Please reach out to the Scholarly Communication Librarian, Jennifer Coronado (jraye@butler.edu) if you have questions about the policy or how to have your scholarship included in Digital Commons @ Butler University.

References

1. Ycharts. (n.d). Alphabet profit margins (Quarterly). Retrieved from https://ycharts.com/companies/GOOG/profit_margin on 10 April 2020.
2. MIT Libraries. (2019). Elsevier fact sheet. Retrieved from <https://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/publishing/elsevier-fact-sheet/> on 10 April 2020.