



Since 2015, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has led a bold Open Access policy that prioritizes the access, transparency, and equity of funded research. With a decade of experience and lessons learned, the foundation is refreshing its Open Access policies to address ongoing challenges and advance systemic change in scholarly publishing.

A Decade of Driving Innovation:

PROGRESS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The foundation's Open Access policy has driven real change in scholarly publishing, spurred by a broader movement to make research more accessible. **Despite this progress, there is more to be done.**

To meet the urgency demanded by today's greatest global challenges, **there must be a culture shift in publishing that ensures the prioritization of equity and access over prestige and personal interest.**

- The research community agrees that Article Processing Charges (APCs), better known as Open Access fees or 'hybrid' Open Access, are inequitable. Their high costs often make them available to only the most well-funded researchers.
- APCs are the predominate Open Access business model and, as a result, compliance has risen steadily but flattened.
- New, more equitable models have not gained traction because publishers are slow to change and have pushed back when revenue is threatened.

Advancing Our Mission:

EQUITY IN RESEARCH

The updated 2025 policy aims to address emerging inequities in research by supporting a shift in current publishing models and **ensure foundation-supported breakthroughs reach the field in the fastest and fairest way possible.**

For more information:

- Contact your Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Investment Owner
- Email openaccess@gatesfoundation.org
- Visit the foundation's Open Access website

The 2025 policy is a response to lessons learned and emerging best practices in the field by:



Requiring preprints and encouraging preprint review to make research publicly available when it's ready. While researchers and authors can continue to publish in their journal of choice, preprints will help prioritize access to the research itself as opposed to access to a particular journal.



Discontinuing publishing fees, such as APCs. By discontinuing to support Open Access fees, we can work to address inequities in current publishing models and reinvest the funds elsewhere.



Developing best practices for Open Access. We will support an Open Access system and infrastructure that ensures articles and data are readily available to a wider range of audiences.

Take Action!



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[Open Access Website](#)



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