

2025 Open Access Policy Refresh

Vision

In 2025, the foundation will rollout a refreshed Open Access (OA) policy to address inequitable practices in scholarly publishing and drive broader change in the field.

The policy aims to inspire a cultural shift away from prestige and privilege in publishing, to one that champions equity and access above all.

Highlights



Require preprint posting with CC-BY license



Discontinue paying Article Processing Charges (APCs) for OA publishing. Support business models that show promise for sustainability & equity.







Redirect funds to create new workflows & processes that ease the compliance burden of grantees. Fund infrastructure instead of paying per article.

A Decade of Lessons Learned

- Foundation priority for open access is unchanged, but a new response to the changing ecosystem is needed.
- Traditional models of publishing do not currently meet the urgency demanded to address today's greatest global challenges.
- APCs are the predominate business model & new models are slow to grow. Community agreement that APCs are inequitable.
- Inspired & coordinated with similar initiatives: [OSTP Memo](#), [cOAlition S](#), [ORFG](#)

COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

	Submitted <u>before</u> 1/1/2025	Submitted <u>after</u> 1/1/2025
 Compliant outputs	Article published under open access terms OR Author accepted manuscript deposited in PMC or Zenodo <i>immediately available with a CC BY license</i>	Preprint posted under open access terms OR Author accepted manuscript deposited in PMC or Zenodo <i>immediately available with a CC BY license</i>
 Data availability	Output includes a data availability statement describing where the underlying data can be found	Output includes a data availability statement describing where the underlying data can be found
 Acknowledgment	Acknowledge the foundation and include your grant number	Acknowledge the foundation and include your grant number
 Fees paid	APCs paid in qualified open access journals <i>see the Journal Checker Tool to see if your journal qualifies</i>	No APCs paid

Article Processing Charge Alternatives

To comply with the foundation's Open Access policy, grantees need to post a preprint or deposit their author accepted manuscript in PMC. Neither of these routes has cost to the author.

If a grantee chooses to publish their funded research in a journal, the version of record does not need to be published open access.

However, gold open access journals only have this model and charge article processing charges. The foundation will no longer pay these fees for submissions after January 1, 2025 so grantees will need to look for alternative funds for these journals.

Payment alternatives to explore:

- See if your institution, or your co-author's institution, has a publisher agreement or funds set aside for open access publishing
- Check if you, or your co-author, has another funding source for the fees
- Ask the publisher for an APC waiver
- Select another journal that does not use APCs – check the [DOAJ](#)
- Contact the open access team, or your program officer, to see if any new models or publisher agreements will cover the fees