an introduction to

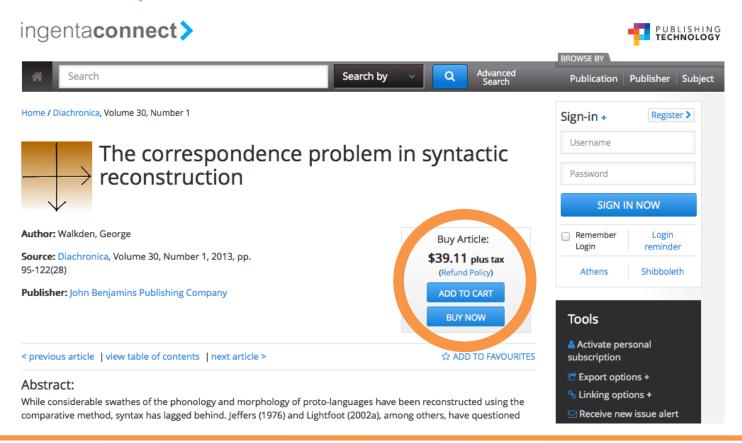# Open Access journals

in the arts & humanities

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http://walkden.space/

http://walkden.space/ERUA-OA.pptx

The problem

- Too many screens like this.

The solution

- **Open Access** publications are made available to anyone, *free at the point of access.*
  - The Open Access movement has been gaining momentum steadily since the early 1990s
  - It has become particularly important in the UK since the publication of the Finch Report in 2012.
  - Funders such as the ERC increasingly mandate Open Access.

Budapest Open Access Initiativbe

- "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.
- Removing access barriers to this literature will accelerate research, enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make this literature as useful as it can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge."

This talk

1. Types of open access
   – Green
   – Gold
2. Open Access: why should you care?
   – Idealistic reasons
   – Cynical reasons
3. Some open access initiatives in linguistics

1. Types of Open Access

Green vs. Gold

Green open access

- Self-archiving of research work in places where it's freely available on the web, e.g.:
  - Institutional repositories
    - (Konstanz's KOPS)
  - Subject-specific repositories
    - (Optimality Archive, semanticsarchive.net, lingBuzz)
  - Personal website or social media profile

What can be archived?

- Publishers typically place restrictions on what can be self-archived for green open access.
  - Is it the final PDF, or the typeset proof copy?
  - Is it a final, non-typeset version incorporating reviewers' comments?
  - Is it a pre-review version?

- Venues differ. Check the website of the journal/publisher before uploading anything!
  - Sherpa Romeo: https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/

Green OA: pros and cons

- Advantages:
  - Cheap and easy.

- Disadvantages:
  - In most repositories, no guarantee of quality (or even peer-review).
  - Version control can become difficult.
  - Often no proofreading/copy-editing/typesetting.
  - Not always good for dissemination.

Gold open access

- Journals that specifically offer open access.
  - Fully gold journals in which *all* articles are OA.
  - "Hybrid" journals in which *some* articles are OA.

- Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)) maintains an (inevitably incomplete) list.

- Gold does NOT mean that you have to pay an Article Processing Charge (APC)!
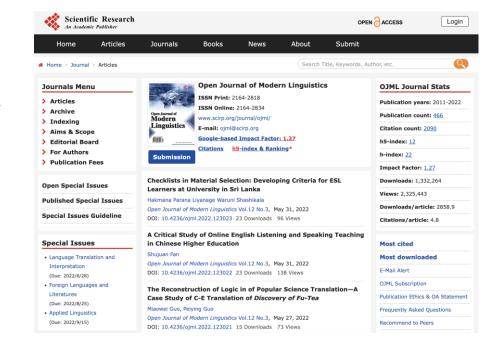 - Depends on the business model.

Hybrid gold journals

- Very many journals offer the option of paying an APC to make your article open access.

- This can be very expensive.
  - "Fees range from $500–$5000 USD" (Elsevier)

- The hybrid model is flawed (see Shieber 2012):
  - Disincentivizes universities to pay APCs
  - Doesn't obviously lead to drop in subscription costs

- Konstanz's OA fund doesn't support hybrid

Gold OA: pros and cons

- Advantages:
  - The gold standard! More reliable than green.

- Disadvantages:
  - You may have to pay an APC.
  - Susceptible to exploitation by predatory publishers.
    - NB: this issue isn't unique to gold OA! Traditional journals have [this problem](#) as well.

Predatory OA

- The Open Journal of Modern Linguistics:
  - $599 per article
  - No evidence of thorough review process
  - Poor production standards
  - Accepts submissions in the fields of "Cosmic Linguistics" and "Paralinguistics"

2. Why OA is important

(in general, and for you)

The principle

- Most European research is taxpayer-funded, but taxpayers have no access to the results.

- In the digital era, costs for (online) publication are lower than ever.

- Much of the skilled work involved in publication (e.g. reviewing, journal editing) is, and has always been, carried out by academics for nothing or for nominal amounts.
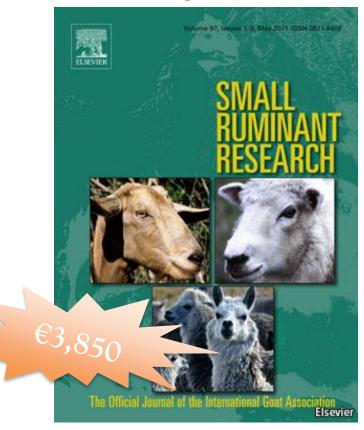
Value added?

- Professional publishers still have value to add:
  - Typesetting
  - Copy-editing and proofreading
  - Indexing and marketing
- BUT the market is not in a healthy state:
  - Elsevier, Springer and Wiley have cornered [42%](#) of the journal article marker
  - Elsevier profit margin 2021: 38% ([£1,001m](#))

Journal subscription costs 2022

Small Ruminant Research
(Elsevier, print edition)

€3,850

€30,502

Biochimica et Biophysica Acta
(Elsevier, print edition)

Time for some competition

- Libraries spend a huge amount on journal subscriptions (mostly in bundles)

- If value really is being added, the market should be able to handle some scholar-led competition!

Why you need to think about OA

- Research funders and government bodies are increasingly **mandating** Open Access outputs.

- [Plan S](#):

  - "With effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo."

Open Access citation advantage

- [Many](#) [studies](#) have shown that papers published Open Access get cited more.

- Most results are for the hard sciences, but 45% increase in citations has been found for philosophy, and 86% for political science ([Swan 2010](#))

- Not surprising: more people are able to read your work!

3. Open Access in Linguistics

lingBuzz and
Journal of Historical Syntax

Case study: lingBuzz

- "An article archive and a community space for linguistics" – http://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz

- Established by Michal Starke; hosted by the University of Tromsø

- Great for green OA. Features:
  - Searchable, with version control
  - Top downloads "charts"
  - Mostly theoretical linguistics, but open to all linguists

lingBuzz front page

Welcome to LingBuzz, an article archive and a community space for Linguistics. You are highly encouraged to upload your articles - old and new, published or not. LingBuzz is run and hosted by Michal Starke. [more about LingBuzz]

The Buzz

[publish a paper]

[   ] search   [phonology ⌄] go

D'Alessandro, Roberta	**freshly changed**	[pdf]	A short history of Agree
Lee, Tommy Tsz-Ming	**new**	[pdf]	Towards the unity of movement: implication from verb movement in Cantonese
Scheer, Tobias	**new**	[pdf]	3xPhonology
Payne, Sarah Yang, Charles	**freshly changed**	[pdf]	Making Good on BADS
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Wehbe, Jad Flor, Enrico	**new**	[pdf]	Focus-sensitivity and homogeneity in attitude predicates
Glass, Lelia	**freshly changed**	[pdf]	The curious case of the negatively biased Mandarin belief verb "yiwei"
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3. Murphy - Book review: Cedric Boeckx, "Reflections on Language Evolution: From Minimalism to Pluralism"
4. Satik - The Strong Minimalist Thesis is

Fully gold OA journals

- [Open Linguistics](#) (de Gruyter)

- [SKY Journal of Linguistics](#) (no APCs)

- [Biolinguistics](#) (no APCs)

- [Semantics & Pragmatics](#) (LSA; no APCs)

- [Journal of Historical Syntax](#) (no APCs)

List of APC-free Open Access linguistics journals:
https://oaling.wordpress.com/

Journal of Historical Syntax

- [Publishes](#) "theoretically-informed papers dealing with any aspect of historical syntax"

- No APCs, few costs

- Hosting, DOIs: University of Konstanz

- Copy-editing: editors

- Typesetting: assistants

A word on copyright and licensing

- Traditional journals/publishers usually require you to sign away the copyright for your work.

- OA journals often use [Creative Commons](#) licenses, under which the author retains copyright while permitting various uses.

- See [this blog post](#) by Martin Paul Eve for a good summary of the issues.

Thank you for your attention!

A version of this is on my website so you can follow the links – feel free to email me if you have questions!

http://walkden.space/ERUA-OA.pptx

Useful links

- The [Finch Report](#) (2012)
- Harnad (1995), [A Subversive Proposal](#)
  - early advocate for green open access
- Monbiot (2011), [The Lairds of Learning](#)
  - short, angry summary of the problems with for-profit publishers
- Suber (2012), [Open Access](#)
  - a comprehensive book-length treatment
- British Academy, [Debating Open Access](#) (2013)
  - a collection of papers discussing key issues
- A [blog post](#) written by me on open access (2013)