



HELLO, NICE TO READ YOU!

A Short Introduction to Open Access

20.10.2026 | ANNA LÜSCHER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

▶ **Introduction**

▶ **Pathways to Open Access**

▶ **Why Publish Open Access?**

▶ **Financing Publication Costs**

▶ **Predatory Publishers**

INTRODUCTION

Open Science

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open-access.network
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INTRODUCTION

What is Open Access?



**Free access to scientific
literature on the internet
(and its reuse)**

“The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.”

Budapest Open Access Initiative Declaration, 2002.

PATHWAYS TO OPEN ACCESS

**Closed
Access**



Pay before you read

**Open
Access**



Pay to publish

PATHWAYS TO OPEN ACCESS

Copyright in Germany:
Author's Right (unalienable)
+
Rights of Use

Subscription
Journals

Closed Access

- Publisher's version immediately available for subscribers on publisher's website
- Possibly publication fees
- Possibly additional charges
- Author transfers the **copyright** and permissions

PATHWAYS TO OPEN ACCESS

Open Access Journals	Diamond Open Access	- Journal is published by an institution / association. - The publisher's version is available immediately and without restrictions on the publisher's website. - Author retains the copyright
	Gold Open Access	- Publisher's version immediately available without restrictions on publisher's website - Possibly Article Processing Charge - No additional charge - Author retains the copyright
Subscription Journals	Green Open Access	- Post-Print immediately or after embargo available without restrictions in repository - Possibly publication fees - No additional charge - Author transfers the copyright, permissions
	Hybrid Open Access	- Publisher's version immediately available without restrictions on publisher's website - Possibly publication fees - Additional charge - Author might transfer the copyright
	Closed Access	- Publisher's version immediately available for subscribers on publisher's website - Possibly publication fees - No additional charge - Author transfers the copyright, permissions

PATHWAYS TO OPEN ACCESS

Further (less known) Pathways

Grey Open Access

- Making scientific literature available via a social network or one's own website, or publishing it in a journal that does not meet standard quality criteria.

Black / Dark Open Access

- Making scientific literature available through mostly illegal channels, such as shadow libraries.

Blue Open Access

- Used to describe these three possibilities:
 - “green” Open Access with an embargo period;
 - articles for which postprints, but not preprints, may be published
 - the regionally limited Open Access model proposed by Elsevier (a contradiction in terms).

Bronze Open Access

- Free access to scholarly literature for reading purposes, without granting rights for further use and with the rights remaining with the authors.

WHY PUBLISH OPEN ACCESS?

Source: Brinken, H. (2021). 10 Gründe für Open Access.
Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4643859>



WHY PUBLISH OPEN ACCESS?

Greater Impact

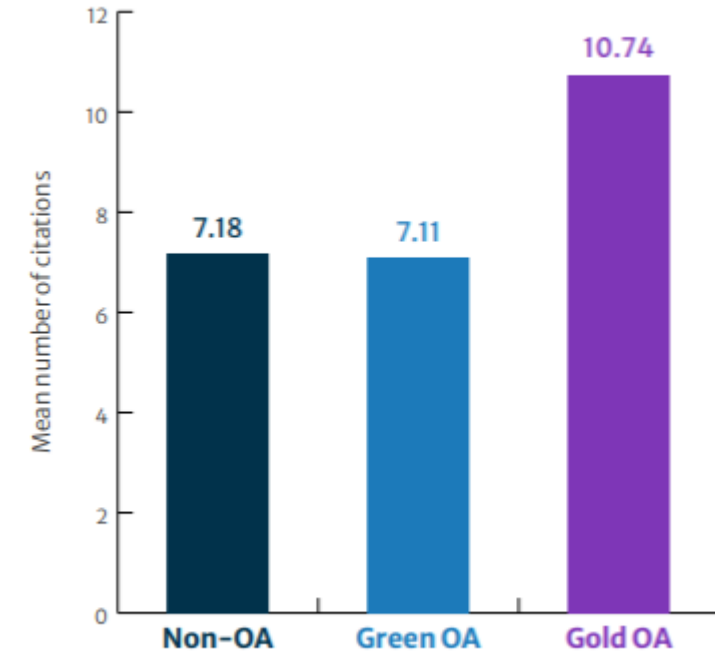
An analysis of 200,000+ articles (gold OA) in 1,800+ hybrid journals (Springer Nature) shows:

- higher visibility
- faster dissemination
- greater scholarly impact
- broader global reach

“gold OA articles receive almost seven times more downloads than non-OA articles globally.” (11)

Source (diagram and quotes): Springer Nature (2026). From access to impact: How open access shapes research reach, citations, and global visibility, p. 11 + 16. <https://stories.springernature.com/from-access-to-impact-open-access-research/index.html>

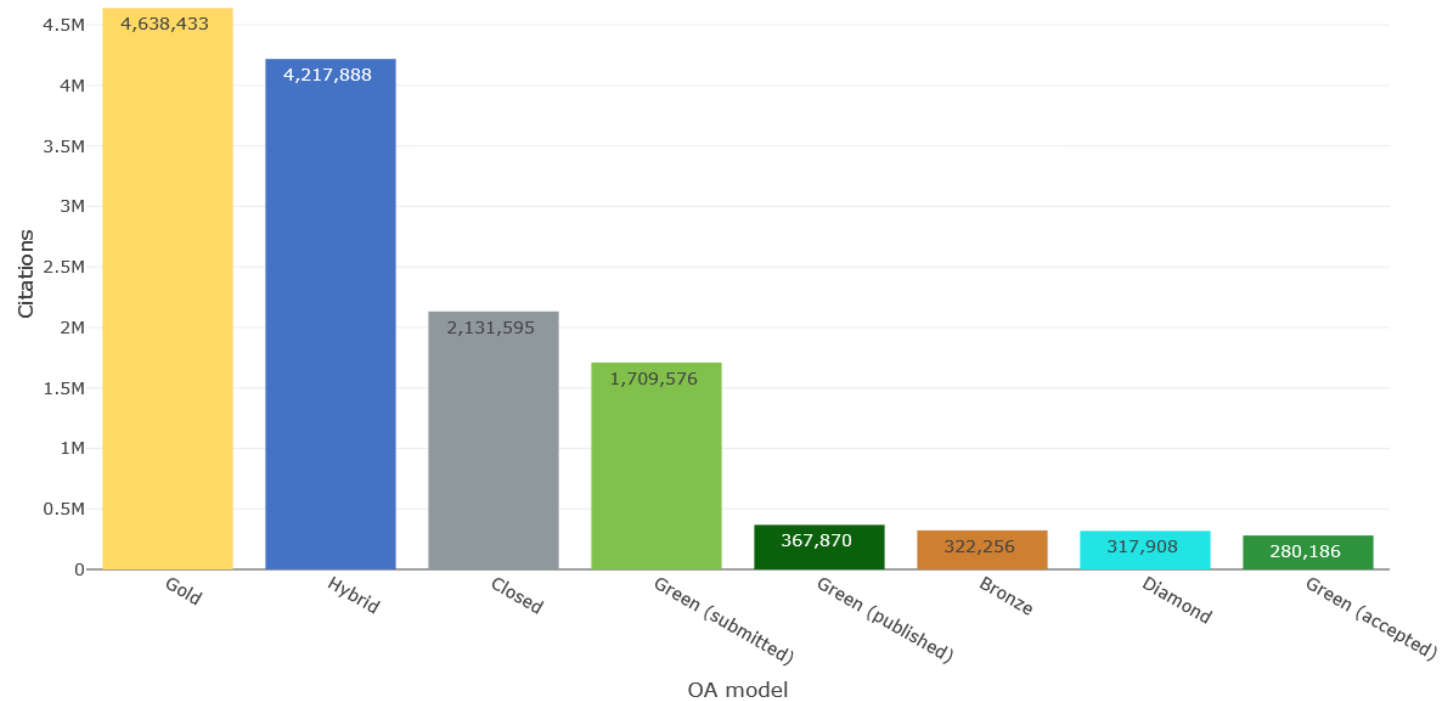
Figure 3. Average citations according to article type



WHY PUBLISH OPEN ACCESS?

Source: Open Access Monitor. <https://open-access-monitor.de/?culture=en>

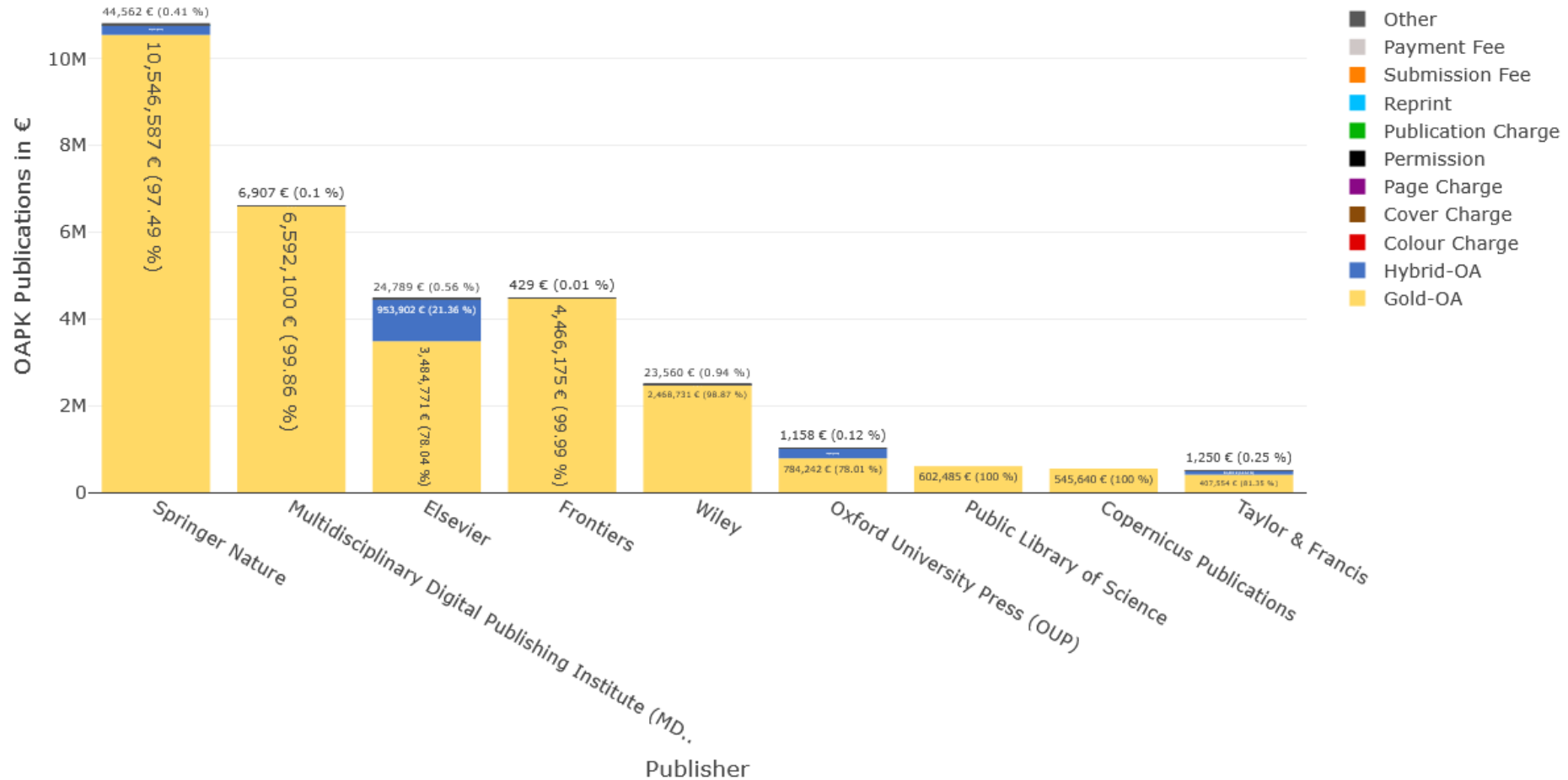
Greater Impact



The graph shows the open/closed ratio of cited journal articles (13,9853,712) in Germany for the last years (2021 – 2025) based on the Open Access Monitor.

FINANCING PUBLICATION COSTS

Open Access Monitor



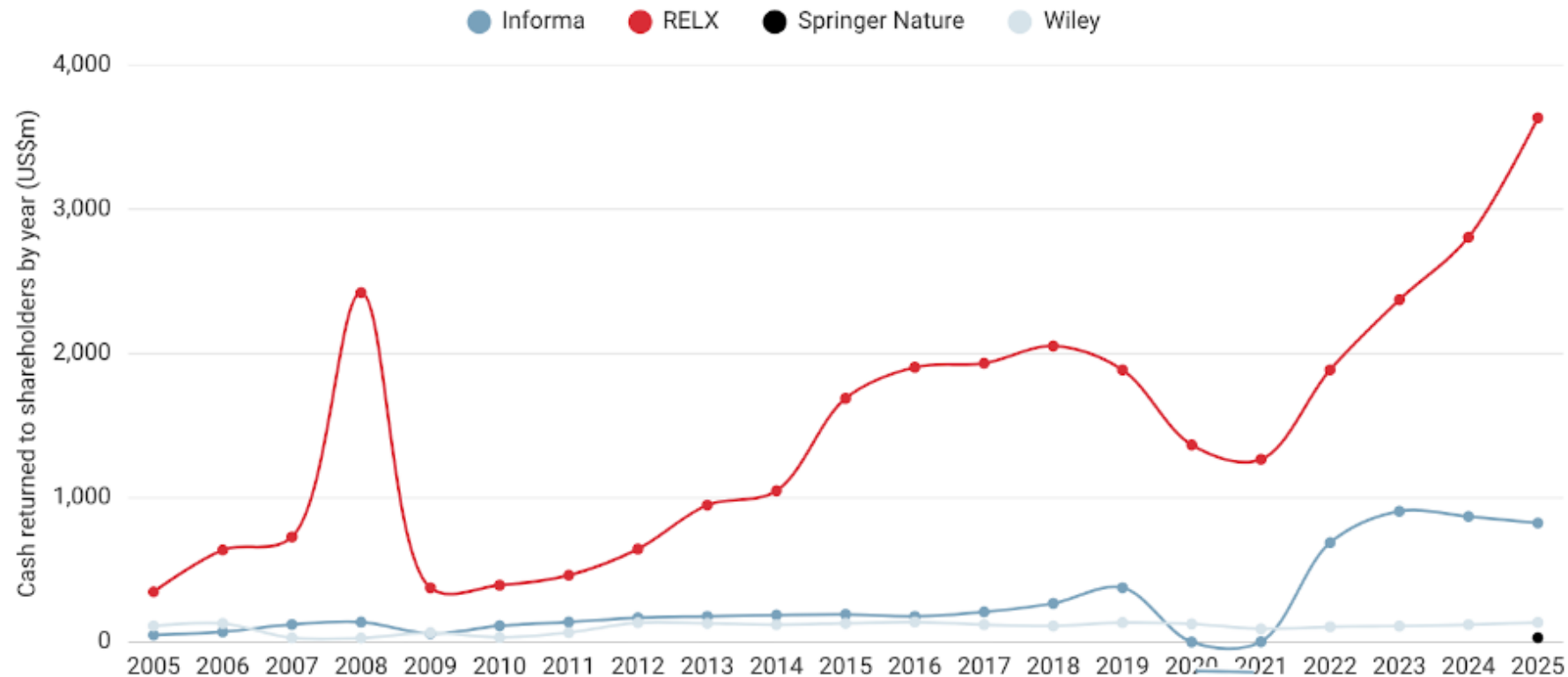
FINANCING PUBLICATION COSTS

RELX = Elsevier

Informa = Taylor and Francis

Cash Returned to Shareholders by Year (US\$m)

2005 - 2025



More context for this information is available on the SPARC website at: <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/cost-of-knowledge/>

PREDATORY PUBLISHERS

False Claims

Aggressive
Marketing

Hidden or
High Fees

Missing
Quality Control

Lack of
Indexing

PREDATORY PUBLISHERS

Think Check Submit
Initiative

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>



DENKEN

 **Think**

Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal or publisher? Is it the right journal or book for your work?



PRÜFEN

 **Check**

Use our check list to assess the journal or publisher.



EINREICHEN

 **Submit**

Only if you can answer 'yes' to the questions on our check list.

PREDATORY PUBLISHERS

Finding a Suitable Open Access Journal



A service website of the TIB. Helps find a fitting Open Access journal for the publication in question.



A list of reputable Open Access journals

BEALL'S LIST

A list of predatory journals and publishers

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Open Access Network: <https://open-access.network/en/information/open-access-primers/green-and-gold>
- TIB (Leibniz-Informationszentrum Technik und Naturwissenschaften und Universitätsbibliothek)
Videos: <https://av.tib.eu/search?q=open%20access>
- IFLA Open Access Vocabulary: <https://repository.ifla.org/items/325341ed-b8f4-4363-854c-fe9346b115cf>

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Thank you!

Questions?

