Macmillan Open Access Publishing Policy

Introduction
Macmillan Cancer Support exists to help people affected by cancer achieve our nine outcomes. We are funded almost entirely by donations from the public. The Evidence Department commissions and grant-funds research on behalf of Macmillan. Where appropriate this research should be published in peer reviewed journals.

Macmillan believes that because we are funded by the public our research should be freely available to the public. We also believe that open access publishing allows our research to be as widely used as possible.

Our policy
- Research funded by Macmillan Cancer Support should be published in peer-reviewed journals whenever this is possible.
- Authors should aim to publish in the most prestigious journals in their field, normally those with the highest impact factors.
- Where the chosen journal offers an open access option Macmillan funded authors should take it.
- Where the open access option is available authors should ensure that articles are published immediately, or with the shortest possible embargo period.
- Macmillan will fund open access charges.
- Macmillan encourages authors to licence research papers using the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) Licence so they may be freely copied and re-used.
- Authors should ensure that funding by Macmillan is acknowledged in any publication.
- Publications other than journal articles should also be published using a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) Licence.

Definitions
In traditional publishing journals publish articles without charging authors (with some exceptions). They charge the reader for access to journal content. This paywall creates a barrier to accessing journal articles.

Open access reverses the model. Authors pay publishers to publish journal articles. Readers then have free access. The barrier is removed.

Peer reviewed journals are the gold standard of academic publishing. Articles are reviewed by academics to ensure sufficient quality before being accepted for publication.

Being open access does not necessarily imply that a journal is not peer reviewed.

Impact Factor is proprietary measure owned by Thomson Reuters. It calculates the average number of citations for an article published in a given journal. It is widely regarded as a measure of the reputation of journals. A higher impact factor is better.
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