

Macmillan Open Access Publishing Policy



Introduction

Macmillan Cancer Support exists to provide care, information and support to people affected by cancer. 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 or on open access publishing platforms.

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 supports the widest possible use of our research and helps to give it the best chance of benefiting people affected by cancer.

Our policy

- The results of research funded by Macmillan Cancer Support should be peer-reviewed and published in a way that maximises the potential for them to be accessed and used to bring benefit to people affected by cancer (i.e. the most appropriate journal or open research publishing platform to facilitate this).
- Where a journal is selected as the best platform, and that 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 and made open access immediately, or with the shortest possible embargo period.
- Macmillan will fund the costs of publishing open access, either in journals or on open research publishing platforms.
- 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.
- Publications other than journal articles should also be published using a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) Licence.
- Authors should ensure that funding by Macmillan is acknowledged in any publication.

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.

Open Research Publishing Platforms are a recent alternative to publication in traditional journals. They follow an open access model and prioritise immediate publication, open access to research data, and transparent post-publication peer review.

For both journals and open research publishing platforms, **peer review** of the article by subject matter experts is an important element of the publishing process. In traditional journals, articles are peer reviewed before being published; on open research publishing platforms, the articles are published and then openly peer reviewed on the platform.

The **Creative Commons** licence is widely recognised way for publishers to permit reuse of their work in ways which are normally forbidden by copyright law. Different types of licence can impose different conditions on users.

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- NonCommercial means that this can only be done for non-commercial purposes
- ShareAlike means users must “license their new creations under the identical terms”