

The Statement on Open Access and Psychology

The statement on open access and psychology is issued with the goal of *raising awareness* about the problems regarding access to scientific literature among psychology students, professionals, academics and the general public; together with expressing the stand of the European Federation of Psychology Students' Associations (EFPSA), which is to exchange ideas, opinions, knowledge, and experiences on the basis of fundamental principles such as open and respectful communication, clear expression, constructive dialogue and flexibility.

Psychology, as both a scientific discipline and applied field, depends on high-quality research. The main products of this research are new ideas, knowledge, and techniques published in numerous journals. To achieve the best possible public awareness of the constantly evolving field of psychological knowledge, the dissemination of the papers containing this knowledge has to be enhanced.

The increased access to psychological knowledge published in scientific journals contributes to:

- A. **The education of students** by providing them with the latest findings and knowledge obtained from well conducted and published research in scientific journals.
- B. **The research of the academics** working within the various fields and subfields of psychology by allowing them to equally participate in the research process through reading, reviewing, and publishing papers in the international research community.
- C. **The practice of professionals** in different fields of psychology, such as: clinical, social, organisational, health, educational, and forensic among others; together with their related practices, such as psychotherapy, counselling and school psychology. Increased access to contemporary literature allows the professionals to continuously improve their application of psychological knowledge in specific fields, by ensuring the work is evidence-based and rooted in research.

Unfortunately, despite the advances in technology and the advancement of the Internet, not everyone has access to scholarly literature. The high cost of scientific journals restricts access of knowledge to all of the previously mentioned groups. Moreover, despite the high prices, authors of the papers are not paid for their work as profits go to the publishers of the journals.

Considering the above, EFPSA endorses 'Open Access' as an alternative to the traditional closed subscription-access system of scholarly communication. Open Access

means that the results of scientific research are available online for free, immediately upon publication, and removes barriers for scholarly and educational re-use.

As a member of the Right to Research Coalition, we:

Invite *Students* to support Open Access

We believe that students should strongly express their needs for Open Access study material and contribute to Open Access by educating themselves about it, advocating it at their universities and publishing their own research in Open Access journals.

Invite *Student Organisations* to support Open Access

We believe that student organisations should aim to raise awareness about Open Access by organising campaigns, events, and workshops on the national level, therefore, educating both students and the public about its importance.

Invite *Researchers* to support Open Access

We believe that researchers should aim to publish their work in Open Access journals, and/or submit their peer-reviewed manuscripts in Open Access repositories, therefore, ensure that their research and data are accessible to a wider audience.

Invite *Universities* to support Open Access

We believe universities should adopt policies that ensure Open Access to their faculties' research, therefore, support it and make it more visible on the local level.

As a further expansion of the Open Access movement in the field of psychology, our intention is to create more emphasis on the inclusion of psychological questionnaires, and research data in the Open Access repositories and a greater development of the field of psychology as a science.