# Open Access: Why It Matters and What You Can Do



Open Access is the worldwide movement to enable scholars to take control over the intellectual property of what they produce and make it available electronically to the widest possible audience with the fewest possible restrictions. Authors, not publishers, should be able to determine if, how and when to make their work available.

Open Access matters to you as a scholar because it will:

- Broaden access to your work
- Increase the number of citations to your work
- Facilitate collaborations with other scholars
- Enable you to access other scholars' research even if your library cannot afford all the journal subscriptions in your field
- Reduce the library's costs in proportion to the increase in the amount of research that is made available in open access publications
- Connect you to your colleagues around the world who are working to retain control over their intellectual property

Open Access matters to you as a teacher because it will:

- Enable your students to have access to the most important work without having to worry about whether the library has bought access to specific journals or packages
- Provide an opportunity for your students to produce high-quality research and make it widely available

# What You Can Do

- Do not sign away your copyright without thinking about it
- Negotiate with your publishers to retain your copyright and for the right to make an electronic copy of your work available openly in the USFSP Digital Archive
- Use the SPARC Authors' Addendum to modify the standard licensing/copyright agreement used by your publishers
- Work with the Library to post all your work, as fully as you want to and are able with existing copyright restrictions, in the USFSP Digital Archive
- Use the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) <a href="http://www.doaj.org/">http://www.doaj.org/</a> to find journals in your field that already allow open access
- Use the DOAJ as a starting point for your own research
- Submit your next publication to an open access journal found in the DOAJ
- Work with your faculty colleagues to pass a resolution of support for Open Access at USFSP
- Work with your T & P committees and your Deans to revise faculty guidelines to ensure that open access publications are accorded the respect they deserve in tenure and promotion discussions

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