“Though research is produced as a public good, it isn’t available to the public who paid for it.”

-SPARC

**Benefits of Open Access**

- Greater & faster advances in science due to open collaboration and access to information.
- Empowers researchers to access & cite relevant research.
- Published works of research are able to be accessed more & cited more (Swan, 2010).
- Altmetrics provide transparent way of measuring impact (Priem et. Al 2010; Loria, 2013).
- Enables open communication between researchers which fosters collaboration and propels scientific advancement forward (Suber, Darnton & SPARC, 2016).
- Advances in medicine and science help the world (Crawford, 2011).
- Open access can potentially be more sustainable (especially for the readers) than the current access model.

**Benefits to the Public**

- Leads to more educated public by providing access to information based on research & evidence.
- Public libraries would not have to spend so much $$ to provide patrons with access to subscription based journals & databases (Crawford, 2011).
- Would promote equality in society as access would be granted to people who, previously, were not able to access information due to class, race, or geographic location (Estep & Enright, 2016).
- Often research is publically funded, so it is the right of the public to have access to the research and information that they contributed to.

**She [Alexandra Elbakyan] has been compared to Robin Hood, although she said: “Sometimes I think it is not a good comparison, since what he was doing was illegal. And sharing books and research articles should not be illegal.”** (Rosenwald, 2016).

**Openly Accessible**

- PLOS (Public Library of Science)
- DOAR (Directory of Open Access Research)
- DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
- SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition)
- Creative Commons
- Institutional repositories

**References**

- Creative Commons, also SPARC and PLOS
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