

# How open is it?

The Public Library of Science (PLOS), The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), and the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) developed the "HowOpenIsIt?®" Open Access Spectrum (OAS) guide; see <https://www.plos.org/how-open-is-it>. The figure below shows where Cochrane Reviews fit onto this open-access spectrum for gold\* and green open access (updated March 2016). The categorization is the same for Cochrane protocols, except that from February 2016, protocols are free to view upon publication as part of the green open access policy.

Machine readability is one of the core components included in the guide. Contact Deborah Pentesco-Murphy ([dpentesc@wiley.com](mailto:dpentesc@wiley.com); Publisher, Wiley) to discuss permission to crawl or access the article full-text, metadata, and citations, and the use of an API for this purpose.

\*Note: The gold open access categorizations would change if published with a CC BY licence.

Figure 1. How open is it? Gold and green access in the CDSR

ACCESS	READER RIGHTS	REUSE RIGHTS	COPYRIGHTS	AUTHOR POSTING RIGHTS	AUTOMATIC POSTING	MACHINE READABILITY	ACCESS
	Free readership rights to all articles immediately upon publication	Generous reuse & remixing rights (e.g., CC BY license)	Author holds copyright with no restrictions	Author may post any version to any repository or website with no delay	Journals make copies of all articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central, OpenAire, institutional) immediately upon publication	Article full text, metadata, supporting data (including format and semantic markup) & citations may be accessed via API with instructions publicly posted	
	Free readership rights to all articles after an embargo of no more than 6 months	Reuse, remixing, & further building upon the work subject to certain restrictions & conditions (e.g., CC BY-NC & CC BY-SA licenses)	Author retains/publisher grants broad rights, including author reuse (e.g., of figures in presentations/teaching, creation of derivatives) and authorization rights (for others to use)	Author may post some version (determined by publisher) to any repository or website with no delay	Journals make copies of all articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central, OpenAire, institutional) within 6 months	Article full text, metadata, & citations may be accessed via API, with instructions publicly posted	
	Free readership rights to all articles after an embargo greater than 6 months	Reuse (no remixing or further building upon the work) subject to certain restrictions and conditions (e.g., CC BY-ND license)	—	Author may post some version (determined by publisher) to any repository or website with some delay (determined by the publisher)	Journals make copies of all articles automatically available in trusted third-party repositories (e.g., PubMed Central, OpenAire, institutional) within 12 months	Article full text, metadata, & citations may be crawled without special permission or registration, with instructions publicly posted	
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