

Vrsta rada: Overview

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## Overview: Open Access Databases and Repositories

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Open Access (OA) is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model in which readers have access to scholarly information by paying a subscription (usually via libraries or educational associations).

Open Access means free, unrestricted and open access to published scientific works, books, academic journals and doctoral dissertations. The initiative of the open access movement arose as a rebellion due to the fact that the results of research funded by scientific institutes, i.e. universities, are published in commercial journals with subscriptions that would have to be paid by the same institutions that funded the research. Those interested in publishing in open access journals must keep in mind that there are different ways of publishing open access, and some of them involve paying a publication fee (APC – article processing charges).

Open Access Databases and Repositories can be used by everyone who conducts various scientific, professional, artistic or academic research, including pupils and students, according to their needs, preferably with the recommendation of a teacher or mentor.

One of the most important advantages of open access is that it increases the visibility and reuse of academic research results. The principles of open access are set out in the [Berlin Declaration](#) on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. This declaration has been signed by many international organisations for academic research. The main thesis that justifies these efforts is: **Our mission of spreading knowledge is only half finished if the information is not widely and easily available to society.**

### HOW OPEN ACCESS DATABASES WORK

Numerous open access databases and repositories provide researchers with free access to journals and articles in either abstract or full-text form. In this way, even researchers who do not have access to paid scientific databases can access a large number of articles and journals, that is, the results of the scientific research work of other researchers. A list of Full Open Access journals available worldwide can be found on the DOAJ website at the link: <https://doaj.org/>. There are numerous open access databases, repositories and other websites that also offer the possibility of free access to articles. We will mention only a few of them:

- » SSOAR <https://www.gesis.org/ssoar/home>
- » SCIndeks <https://scindeks.ceon.rs/>
- » SSRN <https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/>
- » OpenDOAR <https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opensoar/>
- » ROAR <http://roar.eprints.org/>

Mentors often recommend **Google Scholar** as a web search engine to their students. Google Scholar is a freely accessible web search engine that indexes the full text or metadata of scholarly literature across an array of publishing formats and disciplines. The Google Scholar index includes most peer-reviewed online academic journals and books, conference papers, theses and dissertations, preprints, abstracts, technical reports, and other scholarly literature, including court opinions and patents. Google Scholar provides links to both published versions and major open access repositories, including those posted on individual faculty web pages and other unstructured sources.

**Serbian Citation Index** (SCIndeks) is a free, open access internet service. SCIndeks is a service that covers all locally published journals classified as periodicals of scientific character. All of the journals are indexed systematically on a cover-to-cover basis. In addition to titles and abstracts of works, SCIndeks contains references/citations (metadata) for all articles. Most recent articles are available as full texts. The service can be accessed without registration via the link SCIndeks <https://scindeks.ceon.rs/>, while registration (which is free) brings numerous functionalities that can be useful for searching, systematising and saving search results.

We should always have in mind that engaging in academic and scientific research work is not the privilege of rich individuals – researchers and institutions with a project and institutional funding. **Science is the privilege of erudite, socially engaged individuals who want to make the world a better place.**