

# 10 Open Research— A Supreme Way to Celebrate Your Work

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In today's era, research plays a significant role, not only in development, but also in introducing sound and positive changes, making the world a better place to live in. Research is of no use if it is not providing any benefits to the existing species on earth. Also, any innovation is the contribution of the researcher to that field and all other human beings should have the right to access that new idea. One mind in a particular direction can act as a drop of water, but a group of minds thinking in the same direction can emerge as a whole sea. So, why remain restricted to a droplet instead of the massive sea?

With technological and Internet advancements, the whole world has become a global village. Thanks to open research for making the development accessible to all portions of the world. Just imagine, what if Sir Thomas Edison had refused to put forth the invention of the light bulb to other people, we might have been waiting for the birth of some other Thomas Edison to come up with the invention again. What is more beautiful? To light only one home with a bulb having darkness all around or to light the whole world by distributing the bulbs and making the Earth shine brightest in the universe. Of course, to share new innovations or research at the worldwide level and to discuss its pros and cons with the fellow researchers is more beneficial. Global open research has a plethora of benefits associated with it and some of the prominent global benefits of open research are highlighted below:

1. **Transparency:** Open research provides a transparent view to the fellow researchers which ameliorate the chances of healthy discussions, and brings together many brains thinking in variable manners in the same research field. It nurtures the needs of the researcher as he/she grabs more by learning from other people in the same field. It also enhances the scope of worldwide recognition to high quality work by providing all the necessary credit to the authors.
2. **Quality assurance:** Since through open access a particular work is accessible all across the globe, automatically the particular contribution is scrutinized a number of times by other researchers and scientists. Thus, the quality of published work increases by leaps and bounds.

3. Bridging gaps between the knowledge voids: The best way to increase knowledge is to share it. Open access provides an opportunity for the active researchers to attain more and more knowledge in a particular area by sharing with others. This is simply by working towards the development in a collaborative manner. A number of brains can work more efficiently in any field than a single brain.
4. Shrinking the geographical distances: Gone are the days when research in a particular institution of one country remained confined to the boundaries of that institution or borders of that particular country. With the help of open access, the whole research community can benefit from the proposed work. So, distant geographical locations are just illusions in today's world. With one click of the mouse and one finger's tap on the cell-phone's screen, all the doors of knowledge are opened for you. All of this is because of the open access of research articles.
5. Cost-effective: One of the major benefits of open access is that the extra costs incurred on the secrecy of the subject matter are reduced. It reduces the cost and fees charges for making your work accessible to more and more people. Not only this, open research is a two-sided beneficial affair in which the readers and keen aspirants also get free access to the original work.
6. A major stone in the way of unethical activities: With suitable license policies, open access journals reduce the chances of thefts and other unethical activities. Genuine replicas of the research work are made and are circulated globally by giving proper credit to the authors.
7. Eco-friendly: Often open access journals are accessible on the web. With the help of the electronic devices such as laptops, the use of paper has been reduced and it leads to an eco-friendly way of research.
8. Creates a positive working environment: With research work accessible to all, a positive competitive environment is created. New approaches are not only compared to existing ones, but also the advantages of new research are highlighted in a very significant manner. It lifts the global level of knowledge and improves the standards of research.

With all the above advantages, open research acts as a glittering feather in the cap of your research, which not only provides you recognition but also reduces the chances of your work being stolen or misused. It also helps in creating good research profiles, increases the number of citations to your work. Thus, open research is far better than conducting research behind the bars of secrecy. Because ultimately, your research is of no use if it is not benefitting other people and not providing any

inter- or intra-disciplinary benefits to the research community. So, open research is solely research by the researchers, for other fellow researchers and people. Although there might be some disadvantages of the open access, if it is used ethically and positively then it is a boon for the entire research community. After all, Albert Szent-Gyorgyi had rightly said, “Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought”. So, in order to make others known to beliefs and ideas of your research, open research is best of both possible worlds.



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