Common Questions:

Q: Why should I care about OA? As prices of academic resources skyrocket, more people and institutions struggle to access the research information they need. OA eases this problem by eliminating pay for access barriers and providing scholarly information to the public.

Q: What is the scholarly pricing crisis? The cost of scholarly content subscriptions are increasing faster than library budgets. Eventually institutions will not be able to afford access to up to date research information.

Q: Are OA journals peer-reviewed? Scholarly OA journals go through the same rigorous peer review process as traditional journals. OA journals seek to provide high quality content that is freely accessible.

Q: Do all OA journals charge authors? Some OA journals do require authors to pay a publishing fee. However there may be opportunities to request that the fee is lowered or waived, or have the fee covered by a grant.

Q: Does OA violate copyright law? No. Works published in OA journals are still copyrighted, but people are free to access, disseminate, and share OA articles as long as they are cited appropriately.

Q: What if I think I’m being scammed? Contact the Scholarly Communication Librarian. Resources such as Cabells and DOAJ can also help you determine if a potential publisher is predatory.

Katie Pierce Farrier
Scholarly Communications Librarian
Office 112A, DSL Main Floor
254-968-9456
kpierce@tarleton.edu

Dick Smith Library
Phone: 254-968-9249
Email: reference@tarleton.edu

Rickett Library Fort Worth
Phone: 817-717-3315
Email: ftwlibrary@tarleton.edu
What is OA?
Open Access is scholarly literature that is freely available to people online without the costly barriers of subscription fees. The OA movement is the movement seeks to provide high quality, scholarly research to anyone with the technological means of accessing it.

Types of OA
Gold
There are no subscription or access fees. Articles are peer reviewed, edited and published to be freely available online.

Green
Green OA’s are often scholarly or institutional repositories that provide access to pre-prints or finalized scholarly articles.

Hybrid
Some traditional publishers provide open access to a portion of their content. With hybrid publishers, authors can choose to have their works published as OA.

Data, Software, Education, Oh My!
Open Data Resources
Open Data resources are large collections of machine readable, easily downloaded data sets. Data.gov and re3data.org are two examples of open data resources.

Open Source Software
Open Source refers to software that is freely available to the public for use or modification. Tarleton may have restrictions on using open source software. Contact ITS for more information.

Open Education Resources
OER’s are educational resources such as textbooks and course material that are freely available for use, modification or distribution. Openstax.org and PDXOpen are examples of OER’s.

Why OA?
Traditional publishers often charge exorbitant fees for institutions to access scholarly content. As prices continue to increase, institutions risk losing access to vital research information. OA eases this burden by removing pricing barriers thereby making content more accessible. Publishing in OA journals can positively impact your readership, maximize your impact, and increase the number of times your work is cited.

Additional Resources
Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition
https://sparcopen.org/open-access/
- Provides author addendums for publishing contracts

Creative Commons
https://creativecommons.org/
- Provides various licensing options for scholarly and artistic works

Directory of Open Access Journals
https://doaj.org/
- Directory of reliable, scholarly open access journals

Cabells Publishing Directory
http://lib01.tarleton.edu/scripts/lib_redirect.pl?cpd
- Information about recognizing potentially predatory journals

SHERPA/ RoMEO
http://sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
- Search publisher policies on self-archiving and open access