

Access, Power, and Privilege

With Google it seems like you should be able to find anything you need to know. But when it comes to research, it's not always that easy to find trusted sources.

This choose-your-own scenario will highlight some of the challenges faced in accessing published research. We hope that it also will inspire you to help advocate for new publishing models.

* 1. Select the scenario you want to explore:

- A member of your family has just been diagnosed with a very serious illness and you want to learn all you can about it in order to make the best choices for their treatment.
- You graduated from CSUDH several years ago and now your city council is proposing an ordinance with which you don't agree. You will be speaking at the council and need research to argue your case.

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2. To prepare for the city council meeting, you begin with a Google Search on how this policy has impacted other communities and find a lot of interesting results.

Which one do you want to explore?

- A website for the general public with a broad overview on the policy
- A research article analyzing the economic impacts of a similar policy

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3. The webpage provides a helpful overview, but you aren't sure if the information on it is trustworthy. At the bottom of the page you see that there are some journal articles cited. You click on one with an interesting title, but it costs \$42!



Do you want to pay for this article?

- Yes, pay for the article.
- No. Take me back to the other research article I found.
- No, and I'm done searching for information.

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4. You bought the article and it's not as relevant as you thought. Your funds are running low and you might not be able to pay all your bills this month.

What do you do next?

- Look at the other research article.
- Give up. I've already looked at both research articles.

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5. Wow! This research article on the economic impacts of the policy looks great! You click on the PDF button to open up the full-text and a pop-up window appears.

To access this article, please choose from the options below

<p>Log In Login to existing account Forgot password?</p> <p>Register Create a new account</p>	<p>Purchase access to this article • \$35.95 USD PDF Download and 24 Hours Online Access</p> <p>Claim Access If you are a current subscriber with Society Membership or an Account Number, claim your access now.</p> <p>Subscribe to this title Purchase a subscription to gain access to this and all other articles in this journal.</p>
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Do you pay the \$35.95 to access this article for 24-hours?

- Yes.
- No, I'll go back and look at the website I found.
- No, and I'm done searching for information.

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6. This article on economic impact is interesting! But it references many other previous studies that you need to read to fully understand this analysis. You click on one of the other important studies and find out that it would cost \$50!

<p>Log in via your institution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Shibboleth> OpenAthens <p>Log in to Taylor & Francis Online</p> <p>Enter your email</p> <p>Enter your password</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remember Me Forgot password?</p> <p>Log in</p>	<p>Or purchase it *</p> <hr/> <p>Article Purchase Add to cart</p> <p>24 hours access for USD 50.00</p> <p><small>* Local tax will be added as applicable</small></p>
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What do you do?

- Yes, pay for this earlier study.
- No, go back to the website I found.
- No, I'm done searching for information.

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7. You bought the previous study and it's not as relevant as you thought. Your funds are running low, and you might not be able to pay all your bills this month.

What do you do next?

- Go back to your results to look at the website for the general public.
- Give up on searching for information.

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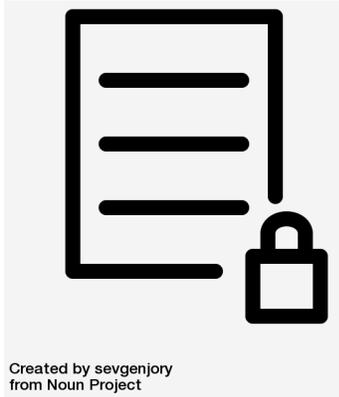
* 8. You're not taking any classes at CSUDH this semester while you care for your family member. You start by searching Google for information about the illness and find a lot of interesting results.

Which one do you want to explore?

- A Wikipedia page that provides an overview of the illness
- A research article on a cutting-edge treatment

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* 9. The Wikipedia page provides a helpful overview, but you aren't sure if the information on it is trustworthy. At the bottom of the page you see that there are some journal articles cited. You click on one with an interesting title, but it costs \$42!



Do you want to pay for this article?

- Yes, pay for the article.
- No. I want to look at the other research article from my results.
- No. I'm done looking at all my results.

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* 10. You bought the article and it's not as relevant as you thought. Your funds are running low, and you might not be able to pay all your bills.

What do you do next?

- Look at the other research article.
- Give up. I've already looked at both research articles.

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* 11. Wow! This research article on a cutting edge treatment looks great! You click on the PDF button to open up the full-text and a pop-up window appears.

To access this article, please choose from the options below

Log In Login to existing account Forgot password?	Purchase access to this article • \$35.95 USD PDF Download and 24 Hours Online Access
Register Create a new account	Claim Access If you are a current subscriber with Society Membership or an Account Number, claim your access now.
	Subscribe to this title Purchase a subscription to gain access to this and all other articles in this journal.

Do you pay the \$35.95 to access this article for 24-hours?

- Yes.
- No, I'll go back and look at the Wikipedia page.
- No, give up searching for information.

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* 12. This article on a cutting edge treatment is interesting! But it references a lot of other clinical trials that you need to read to fully understand this study. You click on one of the clinical trials and find out that it would cost \$50!

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What do you do?

- Pay for the article on the clinical trial.
- Try the Wikipedia page.
- Give up on your search results.

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* 13. You bought the clinical trial article and it's not as relevant as you thought. Your funds are running low, and you might not be able to pay all your bills.

What do you do next?

- Try the Wikipedia page.
- Give up searching for information.

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Wrap-up

14. This is an experience many researchers have around the world when trying to access the research they need. How did you feel trying to find information in this example?

15. How does access or lack of access to information impact you in your own life?

Are you feeling frustrated by being unable to access the research you need? You are not alone! Scholars have traditionally published their research in subscription journals that require a fee for access, and libraries and organizations have paid those fees. But for anyone who is not affiliated with an institution (e.g., a university, a government agency) there is often no easy or free access to this research.

Open access (OA) publishing offers a solution to this dilemma: By making research freely available online, anyone who wishes to access it can do so easily. And you can be part of the solution! Joining together with government-funded researchers and open access advocates across the globe, you can help shift the landscape by publishing your own work open access and by using OA resources.

If you'd like to learn more about Open Access, take a look at the following resources:

- [Creative Commons](#)
- [Right to Research](#)