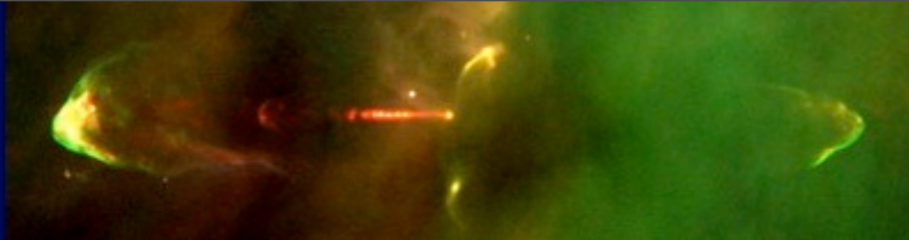


# Open Access Publishing in Astronomy

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# Background

## ► Definition

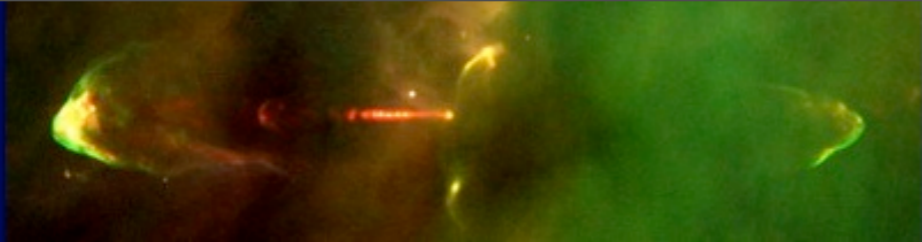
- Open Access in scholarly literature means “**immediate, free availability** on the public internet, permitting any users to **read, download, copy, distribute, print,** search or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software or use them for any other lawful purpose...”

(Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), <http://www.arl.org/sparc/openaccess/>)

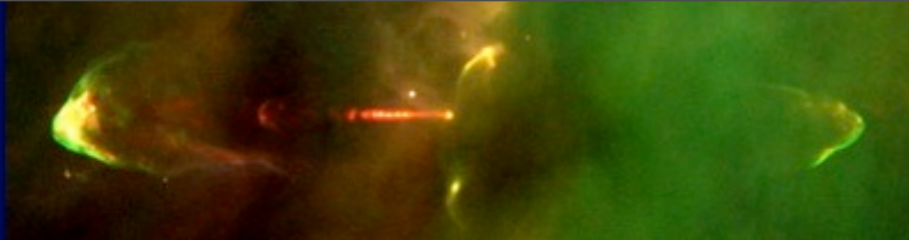
- **publicly funded research** should be available for all

## ► Two ‘flavors’

- **Green OA:** self-archiving (e.g., arXiv/astro-ph, PubMedCentral, homepages)
- **Gold OA:** OA publishing (pure or ‘hybrid’ OA journals)



	<b>Conventional model</b>	<b>Open Access model ("Gold OA")</b>
<b>Copyright</b>	copyright typically signed over to publisher	typically CC (Creative Commons) license
<b>Journals provide...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• peer-review</li> <li>• copy-editing</li> <li>• distribution</li> <li>• recognition</li> <li>• preservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• peer-review (?)</li> <li>• copy-editing</li> <li>• distribution</li> <li>• recognition (?)</li> <li>• preservation</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	subscriptions (+ delayed OA, partial OA (e.g., A&A Letters), "Green OA")	immediate free access for everyone
<b>Direct costs</b>	readers pay	authors pay



## “Predatory publishers”

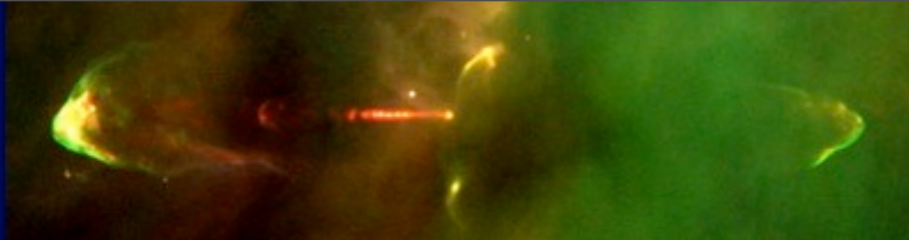
Jeffrey Beall: “....those that unprofessionally exploit the author-pays model of open-access publishing (Gold OA) for their own profit”

- ▶ **spam** sent to professional email lists to solicit articles and editors
- ▶ ‘vanity presses’ w/ **basically no rejections and large # titles**
- ▶ articles published **w/o complete author approval**
- ▶ papers published **w/o peer-review**

## Some examples in astronomy

Beall’s list: <http://metadata.posterous.com/83235355>

- **Bentham** (“**Open Astronomy Journal**”)  
**included**: ‘large number of journals (230+), vanity press’
- **Scientific Research Publishing** (“**International Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics**”)  
**included**: ‘China instead of US, 100+ journals (2009 or later), extremely slow server response times’
- **Hindawi** (“**Advances in Astronomy**”)  
on ‘**watchlist**’: ‘too many journals than can be properly handled’



# The case of A&A

## ▶ Currently:

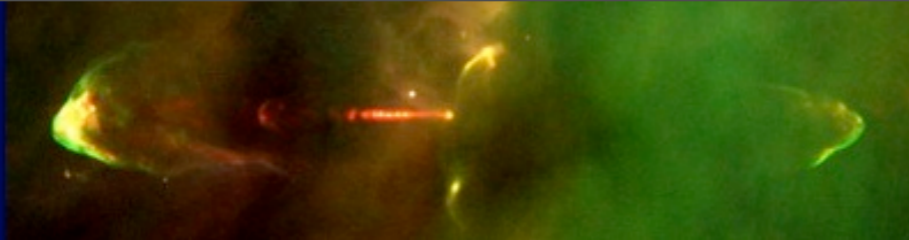
- published by EDP Sciences on behalf of **European astronomers** (+ Argentina, Brazil, Chile), run by Board of Directors
- **member states** contribute according to their gross national products
- authors from member states publish w/o **page charges**
- substantial income through **subscription fees**
- **delayed OA** (currently 3 years), **immediate OA** for certain sections
- copyright agreement allows authors to post manuscripts on **preprint servers**

## ▶ If moved to OA:

- no income from subscriptions
- increase of author fees and/or member contributions?

## ▶ Advantages of OA publishing:

- **accelerated** and **free access** for entire astronomy community
- **increased visibility**, perhaps increased impact
- authors retain **copyright**
- **preservation** is taken care off by publisher



# Join us for more discussion about....

- ▶ why it might make sense to **publish in an OA journal**
- ▶ criteria to judge the **quality of OA journals** and publishers
- ▶ criteria to identify **predatory publishers**
- ▶ what the situation is of **OA in astronomy**

**Thursday, July 26, 2012**  
**16:00 h**  
**Council Room**