

Open Access Research Tools and Resources

Access journal articles and grey literature online!

Compiled by Digital Operations & Support | Updated : May 2023

IDRC's Digital Operations & Support (DOS) team is pleased to provide you this updated list of relevant and high-quality information resources, most of which are Open Access. For each information resource in this list, the following is provided:

- Name of the resource and a direct link to access it.
- Brief description of its content.
- Main subjects or topics covered by the resource.
- Language(s) in which information can be retrieved from that resource.
- Links to helpful guides or FAQ about the resource.

If you are unable to find a copy of an article that you need for your research, the DOS can help in your searches by exploring various open access resources, and let you know, if possible (or not) to retrieve that paper.

For any question and/or request, please send your email to: informationservices@idrc.ca

Resource link and description	Help guides and FAQ
<p>AJOL: African Journals Online Online library of African research journals from the continent to make African research accessible. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Some contents are free; other contents available at tiered pricing for developing countries.</p>	<p>How to Use AJOL</p>
<p>BASE A search engine for academic web resources which contains more than 330 million documents from more than 10,950 sources. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: About 60% of indexed documents are Open Access.</p>	<p>How to Search Base</p>
<p>Bioline International Aggregator of open access journals published in developing countries. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>Bioline FAQ</p>
<p>CORE One of the world's largest collection of open access research papers. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>CORE FAQ</p>
<p>Cornell University Archives (arXiv) An open access archive of 2,250,897 scholarly articles. Subjects: Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics, Economics, Electrical Engineering Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>arXiv Help Contents</p>

<p>Degrowth</p> <p>A free, academic, open-access, international, transdisciplinary, and peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the field of degrowth.</p> <p>Subjects: Degrowth</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: English</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>About Degrowth</p>
<p>Dimensions</p> <p>Search for bibliographic information from over 135 million research publications. Dimensions boasts excellent filter functions which make finding linked information easy.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: English</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to search in Dimensions (Video)</p>
<p>Directory of open access books (DOAB)</p> <p>This bilingual directory (English/French) helps users discover open access books across the web.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: French, English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to use DOAB (Video)</p>
<p>DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals</p> <p>A curated directory of high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>DOAJ FAQ</p>
<p>EconBiz: Find Economic Literature</p> <p>A resource providing students, researchers and teachers access to free and licensed full text publications on economics and business.</p> <p>Subjects: Economics, Business</p> <p>Interface Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to Search in EconBiz (Video)</p>

[Érudit](#)

Canadian platform offering free access to scholarly journals, books, theses, research reports, etc.

Subjects: Social Sciences, Humanities

[Érudit Research Guide](#)

<p>Interface Language: French, English Content Language: French, English Cost: 95% of content is free. Current year's content requires a subscription.</p>	
<p>Frontiers With more than 330,000 published articles, 163 journals and 202,000 editors/reviewers, Frontiers provides high quality research access through innovative solutions. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>Frontiers Help and Search</p>
<p>Google Scholar Google's academic search engine. It searches millions of academic articles from across multiple disciplines and sources. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to Use Google Scholar (Video)</p>
<p>Google Scholar Button Create a Google Scholar search form any webpage. Simply highlight any text and click the Google Scholar button. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>Introducing Google Scholar Button (Video)</p>
<p>GreyGuide A portal dealing with the supply and demand of grey literature resources. It is the host of a wide shared documents. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>GreyGuide Search</p>

<p>International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)</p> <p>IATI is a global initiative to improve the transparency of development and humanitarian resources for addressing poverty and crises. It helps make data on development and humanitarian projects accessible to all. More than 959,245 activities from 1,576 publishers are accessible.</p> <p>Subjects: Development and Humanitarian Issues</p> <p>Interface Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>IATI Search</p>
<p>International Monetary Fund eLibrary</p> <p>Direct access to the IMF's periodicals, books, data and statistical tools.</p> <p>Subjects: Macroeconomics, Globalization, Trade, etc.</p> <p>Interface Language: English, Spanish</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>IMF eLibrary Help</p>
<p>JRC Publications Repository</p> <p>The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's science and knowledge service which publications gives access to research results such as science-for-policy reports, articles, technical reports, and other scientific outputs.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to Search in JRC</p>
<p>JSTOR</p> <p>Digital library of more than 12 million academic journal articles, books, images, etc. in 75 disciplines</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Institutions in eligible countries can register for low-cost or free access.</p>	<p>JSTOR Support</p>
<p>Kopernio</p>	<p>Kopernio: Get started in two minutes (Video)</p>

<p>If an article is behind a paywall, Kopernio will check for preprints and manuscripts that may be available for free. It also allows you to store articles in your “Locker” for future reference.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	
<p>MDPI Since 1996, MDPI is fostering open scientific exchange around the world, in all disciplines. 427 open access journals including 418 peer-reviewed are supported by more than 115,000 academic experts who help provide high-quality service to users.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to Search in MDPI</p>
<p>MERIP: Middle East Research and Information Project Established in 1971, MERIP is a curated platform focusing on providing analysis and reports on politics, history, economy, and social justice in the Middle East Region.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>How to Search in MERIP</p>
<p>Microsoft Academic Microsoft Academic offers a semantic search engine rather than a traditional keyword-based search.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>Microsoft Academic Intro (Video)</p>
<p>OA.Works A non-profit project building tools aimed at making open access easy and equitable.</p> <p>Subjects: Social Sciences and Humanities Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>OAlster</p> <p>A union catalog of millions of records that is built by harvesting from open access collections worldwide. It contains more than 50 million records from more than 2,000 contributors.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>OATD.org</p> <p>OATD.org is a platform for open access theses and dissertations published by colleges, universities, and research institutions around the world. It currently indexes 6,517,964 theses & dissertations.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>OATD FAQ</p>
<p>Open Access for Africa</p> <p>A list of open access resources for students and health workers in developing countries.</p> <p>Subjects: Health Sciences, Nursing</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Open Archives HAL</p> <p>HAL is an open platform where authors can deposit scholarly documents from all academic fields. It contains 3,303,517 resources including 1,186,345 scientific papers.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English and French</p> <p>Content Language: English/French</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>HAL Help and FAQ</p>
<p>OpenDOAR</p> <p>A quality-assured, global directory of open access repositories.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: Multilingual</p>	<p>About OpenDOAR</p>

Cost: Free	
OpenEdition This resource brings together four platforms to provide access to a variety of open access items. More than 13,837 books, 612 journals, 4,461 blogs and 52,698 events are accessible. Subjects: Humanities, Social sciences Interface Language: French, English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free	OpenEdition Search
Open Knowledge Maps This search tool offers "A visual interface to the world's scientific knowledge". Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free	Open Knowledge Maps FAQ
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) OECD is an international organization working to build better policies for better lives and foster prosperity, equality, and well-being for all. It provides a knowledge hub for data, analysis, exchanges experiences and policies in the International development. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English/French Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free	OECD Data Search
Paperity: Open science aggregated Multidisciplinary aggregator of open access resources: 17,125 journals and 10,069,529 papers. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free	What is Paperity (Video)

<p>Public Library of Science (PLOS)</p> <p>PLOS is a non-profit, Open Access publisher empowering researchers to accelerate progress in science and medicine.</p> <p>Subjects: Science, Medicine, Environment</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p> <p>Content Language: English</p> <p>Cost: Free</p>	<p>About PLOS (Video)</p>
<p>PubMed Central</p> <p>Free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journals from the U.S. National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine.</p> <p>Subjects: Biomedical, Life Sciences, Medicine</p> <p>Interface Language: English</p>	<p>PMC Help</p>

<p>Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	
<p>re3data.org A global registry of open data repositories covering research data repositories from different academic disciplines. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>re3data FAQ</p>
<p>Research4Life Research4Life is comprised of five international programs: HINARI, AGORA, OARE, ARDI and GOALI. These programs offer free or low-cost access for eligible countries to thousands of peer-reviewed journals, and books and databases. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free, or tiered pricing, depending on country</p>	<p>How to Register</p>
<p>ResearchGate A professional network for scientists and researchers to share, discover, and discuss research and make it open to all. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>ResearchGate Help</p>
<p>Sabinet : African Journals A full-text collection of scholarly journals and publications accessible from and about Africa. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>Sabinet FAQ</p>
<p>SCIRP - Scientific Research Publishing SCIRP currently publishes more than 200 open access and peer-reviewed journals in diverse disciplines. It serves the worldwide academic communities for the progress/application of science. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English</p>	<p>SCIRP FAQ</p>

<p>Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	
<p>Semantic Scholar Semantic Scholar is a free, AI-powered research tool for locating scientific literature. It enables search and access to resources among more than 212,001,263 papers from all fields of science. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>Semantic Scholar FAQ</p>
<p>ShareYourPaper A platform where researchers can share their papers and make it open access to the public. Subject: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	<p>ShareYourPaper FAQ</p>

The Royal Society Access to several leading international journals from the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science. Subjects: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Some journals are open access. Others require a subscription.	Free Content page
UN Data A web-based data service where users can search and download a variety of statistical resources. Subjects: Agriculture, Crime, Education, Industry, Labour, etc. Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free	UN Data FAQ
UN Environment Document Repository The UN Environment Program's Knowledge Repository of over 12,000 technical reports, policy briefs, and more. Subjects: Environment, Climate Change Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free	N/A
Unpaywall An open database of 47,218,311 free scholarly articles from over 50,000 publishers and repositories accessible using a browser extension. Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: N/A Content Language: N/A Cost: Browser extension is free.	Unpaywall FAQ
Wiley Open Access	Open Access at Wiley (Video)

<p>Wiley Open Access journals are supported by a network of authoritative journals and societies as well as internationally renowned editorial board members. Wiley Open Access publishes several online journals across biological, chemical and health sciences.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: English Content Language: English Cost: Free</p>	
<p>World Bank Open Knowledge Repository The World Bank's official open access repository for its research outputs and knowledge products.</p> <p>Subjects: Multidisciplinary Interface Language: Multilingual Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Free</p>	<p>World Bank OKR FAQ</p>
<p>WorldWideScience.org: The Global Science Gateway A global science gateway constituted of national and international scientific databases and portals and maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) in partnership with the International Council of Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI).</p> <p>Subjects: Energy, Medicine, Agriculture, Environmental sciences, Engineering, etc. Interface Language: English Content Language: Multilingual Cost: Some publications are free and open access, others are not.</p>	<p>WorldWideScience.org Help</p>