

Can I still get electronic access to older articles from the affected journals?

It depends on whether the A&M Libraries purchased perpetual access to the backfiles of the affected journals. If we did, then you should not notice any difference in access to those materials. For the materials for which we do not have permanent access, use one of the options below. This [spreadsheet](#) shows whether we have perpetual access by journal name.

1. **Google Scholar**: Some authors may have already posted their articles open access, either in the journal, in a repository, on a personal webpage, or on an academic networking website. It is worth checking to see if the article you are interested in is already online and free of charge by searching its title in Google or Google Scholar.
2. **Unpaywall** is a browser extension that will search more than 50,000 open access resources for articles that you find online. You click “Get the extension” from this webpage (<https://www.unpaywall.org>), follow the steps to install the browser extension, very straightforward. With the Unpaywall browser extension, if the article displayed has a DOI (digital object identifier) and is an open access publication, a green keylock will show up, click it to open the pdf.
3. It is very common for faculty to contact other faculty authors directly and ask for a copy of an article to which they do not have access. Typically, the author will then send the requesting colleague a copy of the article electronically in a format such as PDF. It is difficult to make a blanket statement about the copyright provisions of all journals published by Elsevier, but generally and broadly speaking, Elsevier permits its authors to share articles in this way. Please see its policies of sharing articles for non-commercial use at <https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/sharing>. This approach requires finding the author’s contact information, writing an email, and having the author respond by taking the time to mail a copy in return, but it can be a very effective and fast way to get a copy.
4. **Get it for me**: Our free and beloved interlibrary loan/document delivery services. While we will not provide the immediate access that a subscription will, we will strive for a 24-hour turnaround and get what you need. If you include ISSN numbers in your request, you will be able to get your requested article within hours in many cases.

How do I make my older articles Open Access?

We appreciate that you want to make your already published articles open access. Check with the publisher’s website (generally in the author or permissions section) to see your options for recovering your copyright or for posting preprints in TAMU Libraries’ digital repository [OakTrust](#).

How do I know what titles might be affected by the negotiations and how?

This [spreadsheet](#) lists affected journals by title and whether we will retain access to older material.

It appears A&M has lost access to Journal X – can I still publish in Journal X?

Yes! These negotiations do not affect where you can or should publish. While we encourage publication in open access journals, we understand that the decision regarding what journal to publish in is best made by the authors, based on the audience they hope to reach.

How does this affect my tenure?

These negotiations do not affect where you can or should publish. While we encourage publication in open access journals, we understand that the decision regarding what journal to publish in is best made by the authors, based on the audience they hope to reach.

It appears that A&M has lost access to Journal Y – can I still edit for Journal Y or serve on its editorial board?

Yes! These negotiations do not affect for whom you can or cannot provide editorial services. While we encourage cooperation with open access journals, we understand that the decision regarding what journal to which to provide editorial service is best made by the authors, based on their own needs.

How do I get an article from a journal that has been cancelled?

There are a variety of options to obtain current articles from journals that have been cancelled. If an open-access version cannot be located, you can contact the author directly or submit a [Get It For Me](#) request. This is a free service. Your [Subject Librarian](#) can also assist in finding alternative sources for journals.

How do I know if the article I'm getting a copy of is a legal copy? I've heard about a site called Sci-Hub as having a lot of articles – should I use Sci-Hub?

Copyright has gotten complicated and licensing (which is how most scholarly materials are managed) can make it even more complicated! The Libraries affirms that articles you are able to get through the tools we recommend, such as [Unpaywall](#) are legal. We highly encourage you to install the [web browser extension of Unpaywall](#). With the Unpaywall browser extension, if the article displayed has a DOI (digital object identifier) and is an open access publication, a green keylock will show up, click it to open the pdf.

Also, as noted above most publishers permit authors to respond to direct, individual requests from colleagues for copies. Sci-Hub, however, is another matter. It appears that much if not most of the copies on Sci-Hub are not legally obtained. One recent analysis observes, “Sci-Hub does not restrict itself to only openly licensed content. Instead, it retrieves and distributes scholarly literature without regard to copyright. Readers should note that, in many jurisdictions, use of Sci-Hub may constitute copyright infringement.” (eLife 2018;7:e32822 DOI: [10.7554/eLife.32822](#))

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