

# Benefits of open access articles for industry

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## Abstract

In this short article, benefits of open access articles for industry are discussed from the point of view of the industry as both the authors and readers of open access articles. Open access articles unlock the barrier to share knowledge and experiences and building collaboration – all of which are crucial for an industry that wishes to make a global impact for a sustainable future.

## Keywords:

Open access; industry; life sciences; healthcare

## Who we are

We are [an international, multidisciplinary team](#) of eight researchers working in the field of Life Sciences at Group Technology and Research (GTR), DNV GL, based in Høvik, Norway. Six of our team members hold a doctorate degree and two hold a master degree in various fields in addition to broad and long experiences working in safety-critical industries. As an internally funded research team, we are conducting different studies and involved in different activities with relevant stakeholders in life sciences that include healthcare. Our goal is to foresee the industries' needs in the short and long term, collaborating with relevant stakeholders, to make a global impact for a safe and sustainable future for all.

Although we are mainly publishing non-academic papers such as technical reports, white papers, and position papers, when appropriate, we choose to submit a scientific article in a journal. The benefit for us to submit a scientific article in a journal is to

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demonstrate our methodology and findings that can be of interest for academic and non-academic audiences. To have a global impact for a safe and sustainable future, we need to involve the relevant stakeholders in the field. Academia has played a significant role in contributing to the success of our research. Our hope by publishing a scientific paper is for others to be able to repeat what we have done and spread knowledge and lessons learned. Publishing scientific papers also shows that our knowledge-based organization is dedicated and has competence to be a significant player within our field.

## Benefits of publishing in open access journals

When we decide to publish our research findings in a scientific article, our team exclusively choose an open access journal although there is no policy within our organization to do so. This is because submitting a scientific article in an open access journal allows our work to be publicly visible. This is an important point for us as an industry to show our competence in the field for supporting our business to our customers, potential customers, current and future stakeholders, who may not necessarily be affiliated with an academic institution and, may, therefore, not have access to articles that require payment. The choice of an open access journal is also part of our consideration. The journal's targeted readers, reputation, scope and processing speed are all relevant factors for us to decide on the journal's quality.

Recently, [our research manuscript](#) was accepted for publication in the Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare, an open access journal. The paper discusses our findings of a safety culture assessment using a mixed methods approach in a public hospital in China. Previously, we have published [a position paper on the same topic](#) highlighting the importance of mixed methods and practical tips to conduct such assessment. The study was quite extensive in that the mixed methods approach was tested in seven hospitals in Europe and China. The position paper, however, does not include specific details related to the findings like you would find in a research manuscript. This is because the objective of a position paper differs from a research manuscript in that it provides more focus to applying user-friendly knowledge and practical guidelines that are

adoptable to the healthcare setting. A research manuscript is more scientific and includes more detail to not only the methodology, but also the study findings. We hope that by publishing the scientific article we will contribute to the volume of research that repeats and applies the mixed methods approach for safety culture assessment in a different or larger healthcare setting. This is our contribution to the scientific society that has an important role in improving and scaling up the mixed methods approach for the benefits of global healthcare quality and safety.

### Benefits of utilizing open access articles

Open access articles are also beneficial for us as an industry. We cite others' work for our publications including reports, position papers, marketing products (e.g., brochures, leaflets), or discussion papers. Open access articles are readily available as accessing them entails no cost. We do purchase non-open access articles when necessary when they are really relevant or when we conduct a literature review. We find this process at times to be daunting not only because of the cost entailed, but also due to the time that it takes to purchase the articles. In our experience, not all non-open access articles become immediately available digitally after purchase. Sometimes we need to wait until the paper-version of an article arrives. This was our experience while conducting a literature review on our project related to the [management of alarm systems in healthcare](#). As a result, we are advised to use and cite open access articles. In addition, we have found benefits in utilizing 'grey literature' such as publicly available organizational or governmental reports and documents. To return the favor of publicly available documents that have been supporting our work, we also make sure to publish our work for public access. This means that there is no cost entailed to downloading [our publications](#).

### Conclusion

As a research team in the industry sector, we believe that open access unlocks the barrier to share knowledge and experiences in this global and digital era. Sharing knowledge and experiences and building collaboration are crucial for us to achieve our goal which is to have a global impact for a safe and sustainable future.

## References

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