Trends and ethical issues in open access publishing

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Open access (OA) science publishing is commonplace nowadays but it has generated several new issues to face. Gold OA publishing, where authors pay article processing charge (APC), has grown into a global industry and led to the appearance of both OA mega-journals (like PLoS One and Scientific Reports) and also to thousands of obscure OA journals (often called predatory) which lack editorial quality control and victimize researchers by intentionally misleading authors, readers, and the scientific community at large. Establishing, supporting and publishing in journals that undermine the quality control of research has been deemed unacceptable practice. The green mode of OA publishing requires authors to deposit their manuscript or its accepted version in a public repository within a predetermined period of time. Open access mandates (gold or green, repository requirements, reporting) set by institutions, funders and governments differ by countries, are sometimes contradictory and may restrict academic freedom making compliance cumbersome. These and other related topics will be discussed offering guidance how to navigate in the OA world.