SECTION II.
WHY MAKE YOUR WORK OPENLY ACCESSIBLE?
YOU MAY BE WONDERING WHETHER OPEN access is right for you and your work. It offers significant advantages for authors who want to increase the audience for their works by making them freely available to the public. Open access also benefits readers who may otherwise struggle to afford access to scholarship and it contributes to the ongoing progress of knowledge.

But open access is not for everyone and is not necessarily the right option for all of your works. Authors do not have to choose to make all of their works openly accessible. Neither do they need to decide to make all of their works available on restricted-access terms. Sometimes, open access is the best choice for some of an author’s works, while restricted-access is the best choice for other works. For example, many
authors decide to make their articles openly accessible but choose to publish their books with conventional publishers. Another possibility is to publish works on restrictive terms initially while commercial interest is high, and then later release them on open access terms.

To help you be well informed about when open access is right for you and your work, this section explains the benefits of open access and offers examples of unexpected successes that authors have experienced after making their works openly accessible. This section also provides background on open access policies and explains some of the additional benefits that flow to authors subject to these policies.