

Open access at the Wellcome Trust

Sir Mark Walport, Director of the Wellcome Trust, talks about the importance of open access.

MW: What I'm holding here is a pioneering example of open access publishing, and this is a printout of the human genome. Now of course most people don't actually read the human genome in a book; the scientist who led the publicly funded human genome sequencing project realised that in order to maximise the impact of the genome sequence, it needed to be available to anyone who wanted it, anywhere in the world at any time, which is why the genome sequence is available free, open access, on the internet.

But science in general isn't complete until it's been published, and for the Wellcome Trust we want to maximise the impact of the research that we fund. That's why open access is so important; research isn't finished until it's been published, and by publishing the results of the research that we fund in open access formats it means that as many people as possible are able to have access to the literature without any hindrance at all, and that of course will ultimately maximise the value and the outcomes of the research that we fund.

[End of transcript]