# Article information:

How to access paywalled research papers without institutional access  
<https://nesslabs.com/paywalled-research-access?ref=Lifehacky.cz-newsletter>

# Article summary:

1. Paywalls can prevent access to important research papers, but there are workarounds.

2. One option is to contact the author or obtain alumni access or a courtesy appointment.

3. Other options include finding a freely available copy through self-archived versions, preprints, public libraries, or browser extensions like Unpaywall.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "How to access paywalled research papers without institutional access" provides useful tips for individuals who want to access research papers that are hidden behind paywalls. The article suggests various ways to obtain the papers, including contacting the author, obtaining alumni access, getting a courtesy appointment, finding a freely available copy, and installing a browser extension. While the article provides practical advice, it has some potential biases and limitations.

One of the main biases in the article is its assumption that all paywalled research papers are trustworthy and worth accessing. The article states that readers need to access the original paper to assess whether they can trust a claim. However, this assumes that all published research is reliable and valid, which is not always the case. Some studies may have methodological flaws or conflicts of interest that affect their validity. Therefore, readers should also consider other factors when evaluating research claims, such as the study design, sample size, statistical analysis, and peer review process.

Another bias in the article is its focus on academic networks and institutions as sources of free access to research papers. While these options may work for some readers, they are not accessible or feasible for everyone. For example, individuals who are not affiliated with any institution or do not have connections with researchers may find it challenging to obtain free copies of paywalled papers. Moreover, relying on personal networks or academic affiliations may limit readers' exposure to diverse perspectives and ideas.

The article also has some limitations in terms of missing points of consideration and evidence for its claims. For instance, while it mentions Sci-Hub as an option for accessing almost any academic paper, it does not provide sufficient information about its legality or ethical implications. The article merely states that Sci-Hub is not legal in many countries but does not explore why or what risks users may face by using it.

Furthermore, while the article promotes open science as a desirable goal for fostering scientific collaboration and accelerating discovery, it does not acknowledge the challenges and trade-offs involved in achieving this goal. For example, open access publishing models may require alternative funding sources or revenue streams to sustain the quality and integrity of scientific research. Moreover, open science may also raise concerns about data privacy, intellectual property rights, and conflicts of interest.

In conclusion, while the article provides practical advice for accessing paywalled research papers without institutional access, it has some potential biases and limitations that readers should be aware of. To evaluate research claims effectively, readers need to consider multiple factors beyond just accessing the original paper. Moreover, promoting open science as a desirable goal requires acknowledging its challenges and trade-offs.

# Topics for further research:

* Legality and ethical implications of using Sci-Hub for accessing research papers
* Methodological flaws and conflicts of interest in published research
* Alternative funding sources for open access publishing models
* Data privacy concerns in open science
* Intellectual property rights in open science
* Conflicts of interest in open science

# Report location:

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