

Open-access journals

In his review (November 3), James Waddell described *Inscription* as “a gold-rated open-access journal”. There is no such thing, and the implication of a rating system is misleading. Open Access journals use either Gold Open Access or Green Open Access. In the Gold model the publisher makes an article free for readers to download online, and for this privilege the author (or her institution) must pay the publisher a fee (typically £1,000-£2,000) to cover the supposed publication costs.

In the Green model the publisher also makes the article free to download, but charges the author nothing. Green Open Access is possible because the unavoidable costs of online publication are in fact much lower than £1,000-£2,000. In each model the essential labour of peer review and editing is done by scholars donating their time freely.

On its website *Inscription* calls itself a “gold open access journal”, but in fact it does not charge authors to publish. Thus it is what the rest of the world calls a Green Open Access journal. That is to be celebrated.

■ **Gabriel Egan**

De Montfort University, Leicester
