



SBL Press Open-Access Policy

Academic, peer-reviewed publishing serves higher education by setting standards, vetting content and methodology, and disseminating research. Such publishing also is a means of professional development and is a significant factor in securing tenure and promotion. Consequently, academic publishers are an essential component of the higher education ecology. In this ecosystem, the stakeholders—scholars, institutions, publishers, libraries, learned societies, and public and private funding agencies—support each other as together they create a long-term and sustainable system that promotes collaboration and communication.

In order to foster biblical scholarship and scholarly communication, SBL Press allows for the reasonable dissemination of the results of scholarly research published within its books and journals.

SBL Press has established the following policy for authors of journal articles, book reviews, and book essays who wish to make their SBL-published work digitally available to the broader public. The policy specifies the circumstances under which authors may make SBL-published material available online and notes any limitations on the distribution of such material.

Terminology

- ◆ article processing charge: a fee paid to SBL Press that entitles the author to reduce the standard embargo period and/or have the work posted as gold open access.
- ◆ embargo: a delay on the posting or archiving of an article or essay (as a digital file) for a specified period of time.
- ◆ gold open access: a specified version of the work is made available for free public use on an SBL-managed website.
- ◆ green open access: a specified version of the work is posted to the author's institutional repository or made available for free public viewing on a personal or institutional website or a third-party aggregator site such as Academia.edu, ResearchGate, or the Open Library of Humanities.
- ◆ publisher offprint (also called the published work or version of record): an SBL-provided PDF of the published version of the work that includes a folio identifying the source and copyright holder of the work.

General Policy

SBL Press endorses a green open-access policy supplemented by a gold open-access option. The green aspect allows an author, after the specified embargo period, to post a PDF file of the publisher offprint in the author's institutional repository, a personal or institutional website, or the author's own page on an aggregator site. The gold option permits an author to reduce the length of the embargo period and/or have the work posted on an SBL-managed website.

Policy Details

What types of works are included in this policy?

1. This policy applies to articles and book reviews published in an SBL Press journal, whether print or online, and to individual essays in an edited, multi-author volume. It does not extend to singly

authored monographs; the public dissemination of any book-length SBL Press work is expressly prohibited.

Who has the right to post an SBL Press work online?

2. This policy grants the right to post an SBL Press work only to the author of that work. The author may, in turn, authorize an employer or sponsoring organization to make the work available in an institutional repository or public website; the author may also post the work on a personal website or the author's own page of an aggregator site such as Academia.edu, ResearchGate, or the Open Library of Humanities. No other public posting of an SBL Press work is permitted.
3. If an author is employed by multiple institutions (as adjunct, lecturer, visiting professor, or scholar in residence), an article or essay may be archived in multiple institutional repositories.
4. For works authored by more than one person, the right to post the work publicly extends equally to each author, provided that all the authors of the work agree to the open-access dissemination of the material.

Which version of the work may an author post online?

5. The only version of an author's SBL-published work that may be posted is the publisher offprint. To avoid version confusion, unpublished manuscript drafts, whether preprint or postprint, may not be posted online.

How soon after publication may an SBL Press work be posted online?

6. This policy mandates an eighteen-month embargo for the green open-access posting of any SBL Press work: no article, essay, or book review may be posted online until eighteen months have passed since publication.

What if an author wishes to post a work sooner than the embargo period allows?

7. An author may reduce or eliminate the eighteen-month embargo through payment of an article processing charge. For the current fees associated with a twelve-month or six-month embargo or elimination of the embargo, please contact SBL Press at sbloa@sbl-site.org.

How does an author secure gold open access for an SBL Press work?

8. At present, gold open access is available only for *JBL* articles. Payment of an article processing charge allows an author to have an article made open access on the *JBL* section of the JSTOR website (<https://www.jstor.org/journal/jbibllite>). For current fees, please contact SBL Press at sbloa@sbl-site.org.

How does making an SBL Press work open access affect its copyright status?

9. By granting authors permission to make available their SBL-published work on the internet, SBL does not relinquish any of its rights as the copyright holder.
10. This policy does not grant anyone permission to reuse or republish an SBL Press work in any form, print or electronic, whether for profit (commercial use) or not for profit, nor does it authorize the author or the author's institution to license or give permission for the reuse or republication of the work to a third party.

What else does an author need to know or do before posting a work online?

11. The author is responsible to check the contractual status of material in an article that has rights and permissions associated with it and to secure permission to post that material openly.

12. An author is not required to secure permission before posting an SBL Press work online, provided that the author adheres to the terms of the green open-access policy: posting only the published offprint of the work to a permitted location after the eighteen-month embargo period. An author who wishes to take advantage of the reduced embargo or gold open-access option should contact SBL Press at sbloa@sbl-site.org.