

# The DARTS open spectrum



- **DISCOVERABLE:** Can this information be found online? Is it indexed by search engines and databases, and hosted on servers open to the public? Does it contain adequate identifiers (such as DOIs)?
- **ACCESSIBLE:** Once discovered, can this information be read by anyone free of charge? Is it available in a timely, complete, and easy-to-access manner (for instance, is it downloadable or machine-readable, with a dataset included)?
- **REUSABLE:** Can this information be modified? Disseminated? What conditions (both legal and technical) prevent it from being repurposed or shared at will?
- **TRANSPARENT:** What do we know about the provenance of this information? Is it peer reviewed? Do we know the funding source (are conflicts of interest identified)? What do we know about the study design and analysis?
- **SUSTAINABLE:** Is the open solution for this information artifact sustainable? This may be hard to know---the sustainability of larger, more established solutions may evoke more confidence than new, small, or one-off solutions.

Open isn't a single outcome, unless you mean BOAI-compliant open (but even then opinions vary slightly). What about other kinds of open that are dominating current growth — bronze, public access, etc.? Should we call this open as well (not open access, but open)? Can we put it somewhere on a spectrum of open outcomes, because it may be open in several significant respects (e.g., free and easily accessible) but deficient in other respects (e.g., traditional copyright is attached)?

Here's our working definition of the open spectrum: "The open spectrum is the full range of different types of possible open outcomes for information, from completely closed artifacts to open access information and everything in-between. The DARTS Framework, developed by OSI participants, holds that the openness of information exists along five dimensions: discoverability, accessibility, reusability, transparency, and sustainability. The result is a broad spectrum of open states. The more easily discoverable, freely accessible, unrestrictedly reusable an information artifact (such as a book, a journal article, a dataset, or piece of code) the more open it is. The spectrum encourages more openness in scholarly and scientific communication, while also recognizing that open exists in various stages and that in some cases, optimally open may not mean maximally open."