Research funding bodies: open access

Many of the funding bodies now have open access policies that anyone receiving funding from them needs to comply with as part of the grant conditions.

What does open access mean?

Open Access (OA) publishing means that scholarly works are made available online, in a digital format, at no charge to the reader and with limited restrictions on re-use.

There are two systems in existence:
- Gold Open Access – the author meets the cost of publishing by paying an "article processing charge" (APC)
- Green Open Access - the pre-publication or author accepted manuscript version is made available immediately or after a period of time on a subject or institutional repository.

RCUK requirements

RCUK, comprising the seven UK Research Councils, has since April 2013, expected researchers, receiving RCUK funding to publish in journals that are compliant with the RCUK policy on Open Access. All papers must include details of the funding that supported the research and, if applicable, a statement on how the underlying research materials, such as data, samples or models, can be accessed. The Research Councils UK (RCUK) policy supports both Gold and Green routes to Open Access, though RCUK has a preference for immediate Open Access with the maximum opportunity for re-use.

The RCUK Open Access policy applies to peer-reviewed research articles (including review articles not commissioned by publishers), which acknowledge Research Council funding, that are submitted for publication from 1st April 2013, and which are published in journals or conference proceedings. The policy does not cover monographs, books, critical editions, volumes and catalogues, or forms of non-peer-reviewed material.

Journals are compliant with the RCUK policy if it provides via its own website, immediate and unrestricted access to the final published version of the paper, which should be made available using the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, and allows immediate deposit of the final published version in other repositories without restriction on re-use. This may involve payment of an APC to the publisher.

OR
The journal consents to deposit of the final Accepted Manuscript in any repository, without restriction on non-commercial re-use and within a defined period. No APC will be payable to the publisher.

For STEM disciplines, there should be no more than 6 months delay between online publication and the accepted manuscript becoming open access. For arts, humanities and social sciences, the embargo period should be no more than 12 months.

Other Funding Bodies

The Wellcome Foundation and medical research charities such as the British Heart Foundation have their own open access requirements, details of which can be found via use of SHERPA/JULIET.

Green Open Access publishing and the Institutional Repository

You can meet the Green Open Access requirements by self-archiving on the University's Institutional Repository: SEA (Solent Electronic Archive).

Please speak to your Information Librarian or email ir.admin@solent.ac.uk for further information about the University's Institutional Repository.

How do I find out what I am allowed to deposit?

One of the simplest methods is to check with the funding body- they should be able to tell you what their requirements are.

Alternatively, a number of JISC funded tools exist to provide information:

SHERPA/JULIET (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php)

> This tool helps you to see what the open access policies are for leading funding bodies

SHERPA/FACT (http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/fact/)

> This tool helps researchers check if the journals in which they wish to publish their results comply with their funder's requirements for open access to research. It includes the Research Council Funding Council requirements and also those of other bodies such as the Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation.

Further information

Further Information is available on the following websites:

RCUK Open access policy

How to deposit on SEA