

Open Access at the Initiative and Networking Fund

Background information on the integration of open access into the Initiative and Networking Fund of the Helmholtz Association

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Introduction

Beneficiaries of funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund are invited to put the following Open Access Policy into practice:

„With the acceptance of funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund, scientists agree to make scholarly publications originating entirely or in parts from results of the funded project available to everyone in a freely accessible archive (repository), no later than six months (sciences) or twelve months (social sciences and humanities) after the original publication.

If there are good reasons, the open access publication may be waived. These reasons have to be put forward to the Helmholtz Association immediately after they have come to notice.“

Background

Open access improves the visibility of scientific results and facilitates working in digital research environments, e. g. by linking text publications with research data. As one of the initial signatories of the „Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities“¹ from 2003, the Helmholtz Association stands for the advancement of open access. In 2004, the Assembly of Members has reaffirmed this cause by a general open access policy: „Publications from the Helmholtz Association shall in future, without exception, be available free of charge, as far as no conflicting agreement with publishers or others exists.“²

The discussion on open access to scientific publications has gained in importance ever since. Under the new EU Framework Programme HORIZON 2020, scientists will be liable to make publications originating from the funded projects freely accessible to everyone (open access).

In order to further advance the development of open access, the President of the Helmholtz Association has incorporated an open access policy into the Initiative and Networking Fund³ of the Helmholtz Association in 2013. According to the policy, beneficiaries of funding are invited to make scientific publications originating from the funded project available by open access.

¹ http://www.helmholtz.de/berliner_erklaerung_oa

² <http://oa.helmholtz.de/open-science-in-the-helmholtz-association.html>

³ http://www.helmholtz.de/en/about_us/initiating_and_networking/

Implementation

This policy, as will be described below, may be implemented by the green road to open access (open access repositories) or the golden road to open access (open access journals). If a publication is published in an open access journal, it must also be made available in a repository.

When implementing the policy, a reference to the corresponding provisions in the model grant agreement („clause 39“) of the EU Seventh Framework Programme and HORIZON 2020⁴ is recommended:

Beneficiaries must

(a) as soon as possible and at the latest on publication, deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications;

(b) ensure open access to the deposited publication - via the repository - at the latest:

- (i) on publication, if an electronic version is available for free via the publisher, or
- (ii) within six months of publication (twelve months for publications in the social sciences and humanities) in any other case;

(c) ensure online access - via the repository - to the bibliographic metadata that identify the deposited publication.

Notes

A list of repositories of the Helmholtz Centres is available on the web site of the Helmholtz Open Science Coordination Office.⁵

If a publication is to be published in an open access journal, the following is recommended:

- The open access journal should be published under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CC-BY).⁶ The purpose of this is to allow reuse of the publications, e. g. for text mining or for cumulative dissertations without further copyright clearance. In addition, authors retain all rights to their publication thanks to this licence.
- Authors are advised against publishing in so-called hybrid open access journals. These are traditional subscription-based journals unlocking single articles against payment of a publication charge. Since only sections of the journal are freely accessible, there will be no savings in subscription charges despite the payment of publication charges. This is called double dipping because of the danger that publishers are merely obtaining an additional source of income and are not interested in the transformation of the journal to open access. Specific examples for hybrid models are called „Sponsored Article“ (Elsevier), „Open Choice“ (Springer), or „OnlineOpen“ (Wiley).

⁴ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/index.cfm?pg=policy&lib=pilot>

⁵ <http://oa.helmholtz.de/open-science-in-der-helmholtz-gemeinschaft/open-access-der-gruene-weg.html#c157>

⁶ <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Additional Information

A list of open access representatives of the Helmholtz Centres can be found at:
[http://oa.helmholtz.de/open-science-in-der-helmholtz-gemeinschaft/akteure-und-ihre-
rollen.html#c136](http://oa.helmholtz.de/open-science-in-der-helmholtz-gemeinschaft/akteure-und-ihre-rollen.html#c136)

These persons are assisting with the implementation of the Open Access Policy. Furthermore, the Helmholtz Open Science Coordination Office will be available to answer questions.

Contact

- URL: <http://oa.helmholtz.de>
- Email: open-science@helmholtz.de