Open Access - A Fact Sheet for Beginners

The aim of Open Access policies and mandates is to allow the free, unrestricted online access to outputs of publicly funded scholarly research. Authors of scholarly outputs ought to ensure these aims are fulfilled. As stated in its Open Access Policy, the MLU supports and encourages these developments.

Accounting for Open Access at the early stages of your academic projects

If you are at the planning stages of your project, make sure you conduct a thorough review of journals in which you wish to publish your research so as to identify costs. Many publishers have dedicated sections in their websites with information about their publishing fees. Current costs of publishing in Open Access journals (known as article processing charges or APCs) can vary between 1500 and 3000 EUR per article.

The Golden and Green Roads to Open Access publishing

If you are about to or have published already, there are two main ways to secure Open Access to your research articles: 1) publishing your work directly in Open Access journals (Golden Road) covering the article processing charges yourself, usually with the financial support of an institutional (DFG or University-based) dedicated fund, or 2) placing a copy of your publication (preprint or post-print) in an OA repository – (the self-archiving or Green Road). In some cases, it may be possible to place a second copy of papers you may have published in subscription-based journals onto an Open Access repository to increase their accessibility. This so-called right to second publication needs to be determined beforehand as there are some cases in which this may not be allowed.

We have summarized some of the key points about Open Access in the diagram below so that you can define your OA strategy. Do get in touch with the ULB to find out what workflows and alternatives we can offer you to support your Open Access efforts (more information under: http://oa.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Open Access</th>
<th>Green Road</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden Road (direct publishing in ...)</td>
<td>Green Road (Self-archiving)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Access Journals (all articles are OA)</td>
<td>Hybrid Journals (selected articles are made OA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed Open Access Journals (articles published after an embargo)</td>
<td>Institutional or discipline-specific repository</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional or discipline-specific repository</td>
<td>Staff members' own web sites or in social network profiles</td>
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Specific Benefits

- Peer reviewed
- Schemes to cover publication costs (via institutional subsidies) and or waivers
- Different publishing models matching the often different publishing needs of authors

- no publication costs
- immediate availability
- quicker sharing of your research results

Common advantages

- No charges to end-readers
- Increased visibility of OA articles
- Increased visibility of your research findings
- Secure long-term storage of your publications
- Increased citation rates and exposure to search engines and discovery systems
Licenses

Instruments such as the creative commons licenses\textsuperscript{iii} provide an array of alternatives to mediate the Open Access publishing process. A common practice for authors is to grant publishers (or the public) adequate usage permissions via CC licenses such as the CC-BY license type. Online resources\textsuperscript{iv} and specific tools\textsuperscript{v} can help you find suitable licenses and workout, for example, which open access policies and levels of permission a given journal may offer\textsuperscript{vi}.

Tasks beyond publication submission

When submitting your publications to a repository (Green Road), you should ensure your publications are described using rich and discoverable metadata to ensure they remain findable and accessible. Funding bodies should be acknowledged and your publications should be provided with adequate persistent identifier and citations possibilities. In the context of Open Science, researchers are now expected to provide the data needed for validating research results reported in their publications and for general re-use. Analog to depositing your publications, you should also deposit your research data in a suitable data repository under an open license. Again Creative Commons provide a range of suitable licenses for this purpose. Many suitable data repositories are now available for this purpose. Recognized repositories by the DFG are cited in the re3data registry\textsuperscript{vii}. A new publication and data repository will soon be available at the ULB to support authors with the provision of Open Access to their research data.

Further Information

In this fact sheet, we have presented an overview and some of the important themes to consider with regards to Open Access. However, the ULB will provide further support and in-depth information into these topics with a series of information talks and workshops starting this summer term. For further details and a list of current information events please visit the following link:

<http://oa.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/en/schulungen/>

For questions or general enquiries please send us an email to:

openscience@bibliothek.uni-halle.de

References

\textsuperscript{i} The Open Access Policy of the Martin Luther University (German only): http://www.bibliothek.uni-halle.de/info/OA_Policy.pdf
\textsuperscript{ii} For more information on this topic se (German only): http://www.allianzinitiative.de/handlungsfelder/rechtliche-rahmenbedingungen/faq-zvr.html
\textsuperscript{iii} Creative Commons Licenses: https://wiki.creativecommons.org
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\textsuperscript{v} http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
\textsuperscript{vi} http://www.re3data.org