Practical tips for authors

The following tips should make it easier for you to publish your work in accordance with the Open Access principle..

1. Find out what open-access journals are appropriate to your subject area. DOAJ and EZB provide overviews of OA journals..

2. Some OA journals charge publication fees. German Research Foundation (DFG) funding recipients can apply for a publication allowance of 750 Euros per annum. If your institution holds institutional membership of an OA journal, it may cover your publication fees. Your institution's library is normally the point of contact in this regard.

3. Consider whether you wish to publish your article in an OA journal or self-archive it in an OA repository in parallel with publication in a conventional journal. As a rule, self-archiving is free of charge. Your institution's library is usually the point of contact in this regard.

4. Many research institutions and universities operate so-called institutional repositories. In addition, there are a considerable number of subject-based repositories. OpenDOAR provides an overview of OA repositories worldwide. It can be searched by subject area or repository type.

5. When self-archiving a published document, you must take the terms of your publishing agreement into account. The SHERPA/RoMEO listing provides an overview of publishers' policies with regard to self-archiving. However, the listing is not legally binding and the terms of the publishing agreement prevail. You should try to avoid granting exclusive rights of use to publishers. The Copyright Addendum Engine can be used to generate a suitable contract addendum online (see Links and References).

Links and References

Information platform on Open Access:
http://www.open-access.net
Berlin Declaration on Open Access:
http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html
Budapest Open Access Initiative:
http://www.soros.org/openaccess/index.shtml
Petition for guaranteed public access directed to the EC:
http://www.ec-petition.eu
UNESCO Open Access - A Handbook:
http://www.unesco.de/openaccess.html
Wissenschaftsmanagement: Open Access Special:
http://oa.helmholtz.de/index.php?id=68
German Research Foundation (DFG):
http://www.dfg.de/lis/openaccess
Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coal.:
http://www.arl.org/sparc/
German Initiative for Networked Information (DINI):
http://www.dini.de/wiss-publizieren/
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ):
http://www.doaj.org
Electronic Journals Library (EZB):
http://rzblx1.uni-regensburg.de/ezeit/
Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR):
http://www.opendoar.org/
Creative Commons Licences:
http://creativecommons.org/about/
Digital Peer Publishing NRW (DiPP NRW)
http://www.dipp.nrw.de/
SHERPA/RoMEO Listing:
http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php
Copyright Addendum Engine:
http://scholars.sciencecommons.org/

Project partners of open-access.net

Freie Universitaet Berlin	University of Konstanz
University of Goettingen	University of Bielefeld

Cooparation partners

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft	Helmholtz Association
Leibniz Society	Max Planck Society

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The German Research Foundation (DFG)

open access

Open access to knowledge

„An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good."
(Budapest Open Access Initiative)

information platform
www.open-access.net

What does „open access" mean?

Open access (OA) stands for toll-free online access to scientific and scholarly literature with the aim of ensuring maximum dissemination and rapid availability of scientific and scholarly information. The Budapest Open Access Initiative defines OA as follows: „By ‚open access' to this literature, we mean its free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself."

Open Access Declarations

The Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI), a coalition of leading national and international scholars and scientists, came into being in December 2001. In the declaration of the same name, they call for free and unrestricted access to scientific and scholarly texts on the Internet and pledge to support the advancement of OA. To date, over 5,500 signatures have been added to the initiative.

At a conference in Berlin in 2003, leading national and international scientific and scholarly organisations (for example, the German Rectors' Conference and the German Council of Science and Humanities) pledged to establish the principle of Open Access. The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, which arose from this conference, has since been signed by a large number of scientific organisations from all over the world.

2007 saw the launch of a „Petition for guaranteed public access to publicly-funded research results" directed to the European Commission. It has since been signed by several thousand scientists and scholars.

Open Access Strategies

There are two roads to Open Access:

The „gold road"
The primary publication of scientific and scholarly articles in open-access journals is referred to as the „gold road" to OA. As a rule, manuscripts submitted to OA journals undergo the same quality-assurance process (peer review) as texts submitted to conventional journals. However, because publications in OA journals also involve costs, new business models have had to be developed (for example publication fees, institutional memberships and hybrid models).

The number of OA journals is rising steadily. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) currently lists more than 270,000 articles in over 4,000 quality-controlled journals (as of April 2009).

DOAJ DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

The „green road"
Self-archiving - the deposit of scientific and scholarly documents in open-access repositories prior to, in parallel with, or after print publication - is referred to as the „green road" to OA. Such OA repositories are either built and operated by individual institutions, for example universities, to preserve the research output of their members, or they are run as subject-based archives which preserve the research output of a particular discipline. In the same way as access for users is toll-free, authors are not usually charged a fee for self-archiving their work in institutional or subject-based repositories.

The Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR) provides a list of all OA repositories worldwide. The Directory currently lists over 1,300 repositories (as of April 2009).

*Open*DOAR

The advantages of Open Access

Open Access offers a number of advantages:

- toll-free access to scientific and scholarly information
- increased visibility and higher citation rates for publications
- good findability via search engines and reference services
- participation in all the benefits of digital publications (e.g. no space limitations, incorporation of other materials)
- internationalisation of science and scholarship
- greater research efficiency through early discussion of research results
- availability of research results to application-oriented target groups and the general public

Legal framework

As a rule, authors who publish in open-access journals retain their exploitation rights. By means of special licences (for example, Creative Commons Licences, DiPP Licences), authors can specify the rights of use which they grant to others

creative commons   Digital Peer Publishing [DiPP NRW

When self-archiving documents in parallel with publication, the terms of the publishing agreement must be taken into account. Authors should try to avoid granting exclusive rights of use to publishers and should endeavour to reserve the right to self-archive their work in an OA repository by means of a contract addendum to this effect.

The SHERPA/RoMEO listing provides an overview of publishers' policies with regard to self-archiving.