



Statement on Open Access at the University of Oxford¹

The University of Oxford academic community is strongly committed to ensuring the widest possible access to its research. The value and utility of research outputs increases the more broadly they are available to be considered and used by others. The University is already very active in disseminating research both for the benefit of the international research community and for society more widely. Access to Oxford's published research, for everyone, from everywhere, will highlight the excellence of its research, attract scholars and students, and foster collaboration.

The University encourages its researchers to provide Open Access to published research outputs, so that they are available online with the fewest restrictions on use. Such access is made consistent with copyright and licensing that may be inherent in the research itself and in the publishing agreements, and subject to proper attribution.

Oxford University Press (OUP) has been publishing OA content since 2004.

The University believes that the UK should adopt an approach to Open Access that supports and is credible to researchers, sustainable and makes the best use of resources. The University recognises the current complexity and challenges in achieving this across all disciplines.

Our academics, researchers, staff and students must be free to publish in the form of their choice, whether in a named journal, or in other forms such as monographs and scholarly editions.

The major research funders in the UK encourage or mandate Open Access, as do most international funding bodies. In complying with these mandates, we favour, now and for the foreseeable future, open access by means of the Green Route. This enables authors to publish in any journal and to self-archive a version of the article for free public use. Thus the Green approach provides most of the benefits for a much smaller additional cost than Gold Open Access (which involves paying Article Processing Charges) (APCs). We will utilise special allocations from our funders in those cases where their policy requires that APCs be paid.

The Oxford Research Archive (ORA) was launched by the University in 2007 as a permanent and secure online archive of research materials produced by members of the University of Oxford. We will enhance the coverage and features in ORA and ease of use to provide a single point of public access to electronic copies of peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings by Oxford authors and Oxford research theses. This will also provide a means for institutional compliance with funders' Open Access requirements.

To enable Oxford authors to meet the requirements of their funding agencies with regard to Open Access, information about Oxford-authored papers will be harvested from subject-based repositories such as PubMed Central and arXiv; citation indexes such as Web of Knowledge and Scopus; the University Symplectic system; and local systems within the University subject to availability, and the author will be expected to upload full text of their publications to ORA. These will be stored and preserved and, copyright permitting, made freely accessible by the Bodleian Libraries. Authors will be asked to provide details of the funder(s) and of the source of data for publicly-funded work (as required by the Research Councils UK from April 2013).

¹ Approved by the University Council on 11 March 2013

Authors will be encouraged to also deposit other types of research outputs, subject to the conditions of any research contracts with third parties and discipline-specific conventions as advised by their academic division.

As noted by the UK Open Access Implementation Group, UK higher education and the UK economy and society will benefit in terms of 'the increased efficiency with which research can be conducted and disseminated, and the increased impact that research will have when it is openly available to be used both as a basis for further research, and to support innovation and good practice in the wider economy and society.' (<http://open-access.org.uk/case-for-oa/>)

The University's move to greater open access involves a close partnership between its researchers, academic departments and divisions, the Bodleian Libraries, OUP and the University Administration and Services, and will require the support and cooperation of our collaborators and investment from our funders.

This policy will be reviewed regularly to respond to changes in OA policy by funders and other external bodies.