

The AAS Open Access Statement

AAS has long appreciated the limitation of scientists, innovators and technologists in accessing recent research findings in journals, as well as reference materials and databases which usually need subscription to access. The AAS recounts the call by the InterAcademy Council (IAC) in 2003 on The InterAcademy Panel (IAP), International Council for Science (ICSU), UNESCO, World Bank, regional development banks, and foundations to promote the availability of professional journals and textbooks on the worldwide web for free, or at modest cost, to scientists and engineers from developing nations.

AAS Open Access Statements

1. AAS is fully committed to making freely available research data and research findings.
 - Freely available research data is data that is free to access, reuse, repurpose, and redistribute.
 - Freely available research findings are enabled for all users to read published research papers in an electronic format and to search for and re-use (including download) the content of published research papers, both manually and using automated tools (such as those for text and data mining), provided that any such re-use is subject to full and proper attribution.
2. AAS position is that making research data and publications easily and readily accessible at no or low cost is a sure way of realising the application of up-to-date scientific knowledge and technology to resolve the challenges of humanity. It affirms the principle that it is the intrinsic merit of the work done by a researcher, and not the title of the journal in which an author's work is published, that should be considered in making decisions on funding the publication of research findings. Maximising the distribution of research data, by providing free, online access is the most effective way of ensuring that the research can be accessed, read, and built upon.
3. AAS supports open and unrestricted access to the published output of its funded research. In doing so, AAS will provide grant holders with additional funding to cover open access charges, in order to meet our requirements and those of our local and global funding partners.

Enabling Open Access for Innovation and Research funded by AAS

1. The AAS expects that:

Research Data:

- a) Open access to research data from public funding should be available in easy, timely, user-friendly formats and preferably Internet-based.
- b) Data access arrangements should respect the legal rights and legitimate interests of all stakeholders. AAS acknowledges that access to, and use of, certain research data will necessarily be limited by various types of legal requirements,
- c) Institutional arrangements for the management of research data should be based on the relevant professional standards and values embodied in the codes of conduct of the scientific communities involved.
- d) The value and utility of research data depends, to a large extent, on the quality of the data itself. AAS grantees should pay particular attention to ensuring compliance with explicit quality standards.

Research Findings:

- e) Maximise the opportunities to make their results available for free through open access publishing
 - f) Ensure electronic copies of any research papers that have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and are supported in whole or in part by AAS, are made available through relevant and suitable repositories (e.g., PubMed Central (PMC) and Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC)) as soon as possible and, in any event, within six months of the journal publisher's official date of final publication; this requirement applies to all grants regardless of award date.
 - g) License research papers using the Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CC-BY) such that they may be freely copied and re-used (for example, for text and data-mining purposes), provided that such uses are fully attributed; this applies in all cases where open access fee are paid by AAS. The requirement to publish under a CC-BY licence only applies to research articles.
2. AAS will fund the costs of depositing research data and papers in recognized and appropriate repositories. There are two mechanisms whereby AAS funded researchers can access additional funds to cover APC costs.
- By awarding additional ring-fenced funds for open access costs to an institution where AAS has a number of programmes running in the same institution.
 - A funded programme or researcher directly requests for additional funding for the purpose of Open Access publishing.
- Open access charges must not be requested upfront on application forms.

If you have any questions regarding any of the AAS policies, please write to grants@aasciences.ac.ke.