Guidelines on open access to scientific publications and research data in ICT-AGRI 2

Open access (OA) addresses the problem of limited access to (peer-reviewed) scholarly research. It is the practice of providing online access to scientific information (articles, conference proceedings, monographs, books, theses, research data, …) that is free of charge to the reader, and licensed so that the information can be further used and exploited by researchers, by the industry and by citizens. Milestone definitions of Open Access include those of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and the Berlin Declaration (October 2003) on open access.[1]

The benefits of OA are manifold:

- The visibility of research output of individual researchers and institutions increases; research impact increases.
- Funding agencies get a better return of investment due to increased impact of funded research.
- Researchers waste less time seeking articles they cannot access.
- Duplication of research can be more effectively avoided.
- Libraries have to spend less on traditional journal subscriptions. Moreover, OA offers them the possibility to become providers of OA services, by setting up repositories for OA publications.
- Publishers that adopt OA obtain more exposure for their publications.
- Companies (especially SMEs) can innovate faster by gaining immediate access to free research results.

---

[1] Open access in the Budapest Declaration (2002): "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. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited" (see http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read).

Open access in the Berlin Declaration (2003): "Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions: 1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use. 2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, inter operability, and long-term archiving" (see http://openaccess.mpg.de/67605/berlin_declaration_engl.pdf).

In order to reap these benefits, the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium has defined the following open access policy, which must be observed by all recipients of ICT-AGRI 2 research funding.

1. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium *requires* that a copy of the accepted version (either author final manuscript, post-prints or publisher version) of all *peer reviewed journal articles*, supported, either in their entirety or in part by ICT-AGRI 2 research funding, is deposited in a suitable open access repository[2] immediately upon acceptance for publication, with the metadata (Minimum set of metadata: title, abstract, keywords, name of author, affiliation of author, publication info (including journal title, volume, issue, publication date)) openly available from the time of deposit. Grant holders are required to report all publications coming forth from ICT-AGRI 2 funded research as deliverables in their project reports.

2. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium strongly *encourages* similar actions as mentioned in 1. for providing open access to *other types of publications* (e.g., conference proceedings, theses, books, monographs).

3. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium requires that all the publications mentioned in 1. are made openly available preferably immediately, but no later than 6 months after the date of publication.[3] To enable this, the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium requires that in negotiating with publishers, grant holders retain sufficient rights to enable immediate open access or delayed open access of up to 6 months. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium advises authors to work with a licence to publish (preferably the Creative Commons CC-BY or CC-0 licences) instead of with a copyright transfer agreement, when dealing with their publisher, in order to retain sufficient rights for providing open access to their publication.

4. In case the authors decide to publish in a gold open access journal, the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium considers as eligible expenses, which may be supported within the grant budget, Article Processing Charges (or similar fees) to publish in peer reviewed open access journals and books. In the case that an Article Processing Charge is supported by the grant budget, the article must be openly available from the moment of publication. Article Processing Charges (or similar fees) are only considered to be eligible expenses if the publication was accepted before the end of the funding period. There is no limit to the per-article amount of APCs that can be requested. However, authors are asked to consider APC cost when deciding in which journal to publish, since lower APC costs leave more funding available for research purposes. Authors are required to avoid "double-dipping" journals[4] and to avoid "predatory publishers".[5]

---

[2] A repository for scientific publications is an online archive. Institutional, subject-based and centralised repositories are all acceptable choices. Grant holders should not choose a repository which claims rights over deposited publications and precludes access. The Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE) is the recommended entry point for researchers to determine what repository to choose (http://www.openaire.eu). OpenAIRE also offers support services for researchers, such as the National Open Access Desks.

[3] Delayed open access is only allowed if the green route to open access (=self-archiving, free of charge to authors) is chosen. If the gold route to open access (=publication in an open access journal, with payment of a publication fee by the author) is chosen, open access to the publication must be immediate. Both the green and gold route are considered suitable routes by the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium.

[4] Most large scholarly publishers now offer the possibility for authors to pay APCs (or similar fees) in order to offer Open Access to their articles. At the same time, these publishers retain their current subscription-based business model. If these publishers do not lower their subscription fees as their revenue from Open Access fees

5. In all publications mentioned in 1. and 2., funding recipients must acknowledge the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium and identify the funding in the following manner: "This research was made possible by funding from ICT-AGRI 2, an EU FP7 ERA-NET project (http://ict-agri.eu), under grant agreement n° XXXX."

6. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium encourages that all research data and associated metadata resulting from ICT-AGRI 2 funded projects, are deposited in a suitable open data repository.[6]

7. Institutions/grant holders agree that by receiving financing from the ICT-AGRI 2 consortium they have accepted the terms and conditions of this policy. The ICT-AGRI 2 consortium will monitor the compliance with the present terms and conditions and has defined the following sanction for non-complying project consortia: withholding the transfer of part of the funds until all publications comply.

This policy comes into force from 1st of January 2015 and applies to all publications resulting from grants awarded subsequent to this date.

---

increases, they are charging subscribers for open access articles, a practice that is commonly called "double dipping."

[5] In academic publishing, predatory publishing describes an exploitative open-access publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without providing the editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate journals (open access or not). Beall's list of predatory publishers shows a regularly updated overview of most known predatory publishers: http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/.

[6] A suitable data repository offers public access to the research data, enables data citation through persistent identifiers (DOI, or others), and provides quality metadata (including acknowledgment of research funding) based on accepted guidelines and standards.