

Policy Note - Research Minds Net

1. Purpose of this Policy Note

This policy note sets out the rules and expectations for **Research Minds Net**, a website and digital platform that collects, stores, and provides access to published research papers, preprints, and other scholarly outputs. It explains what types of materials can be uploaded, who is allowed to deposit, how items are preserved, and how users may access and reuse them.

2. Scope and types of content collected

Research Minds Net collects and keeps the following types of scholarly work:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles (author-accepted manuscript or permitted versions).
- Conference papers and proceedings.
- Preprints and working papers in the final form intended for publication.
- Theses and dissertations (with permission from the awarding institution, if required). Content that is purely promotional, non-academic (e.g., news articles, blogs, generic websites), or outside the scope of scientific or scholarly research will generally not be accepted.

3. Who can deposit and how

Deposits are allowed for:

- Researchers affiliated with cooperating institutions or universities.
 - Independent scholars who provide verifiable contact and affiliation details.
 - Authorized representatives of research groups or institutions.
- Each deposit must include:
- Complete metadata (title, author(s), abstract, keywords, publication year, and journal or conference name, if applicable).
 - A clear indication of the version of the paper (e.g., preprint, accepted manuscript, or post-print).
 - A statement confirming that the depositor has the right to upload the work (e.g., holds copyright or is permitted under a license or publisher policy).

4. Copyright and licensing

- Authors retain copyright unless they have signed a transfer agreement with a publisher.

- Research Minds Net expects that deposited versions comply with publisher self-archiving policies (e.g., accepted manuscript under green-open-access rules).
- Whenever possible, authors are encouraged to apply an open-license (such as **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0**) to allow reuse, subject to publisher restrictions.
- The site will not host or distribute versions that clearly violate a publisher's copyright or embargo terms.

5. Access, embargoes, and removal

- Most items will be made publicly accessible unless an embargo is required by the publisher or by the depositor for a justified reason (e.g., confidentiality or pending publication).
- Embargo periods will be clearly indicated; once the embargo ends, the item becomes openly accessible.
- Authors may request removal or correction of items under the following conditions: substantial error, breach of copyright, or violation of privacy/ethics rules; such requests must be justified and will be reviewed by the Research Minds Net team.

6. Preservation and long-term access

- Research Minds Net commits to preserving deposited items for the long term, using secure storage, regular backups, and migration strategies to maintain access despite technical changes.
- Persistent identifiers (such as DOIs or stable URLs) will be used where possible so that cited papers remain findable over time.
- The site reserves the right to reformat or move metadata and files internally to ensure continued accessibility, without altering the scholarly content.

7. Responsibilities of users

- Users of Research Minds Net agree to:
 - Use deposited materials for lawful, non-commercial research or educational purposes, unless a more permissive license is applied.
 - Properly cite authors and the version of the paper they use, following standard academic citation practices.
 - Respect copyright notices and any specific restrictions attached to particular items.

8. Review and updates

This policy note may be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect changes in legal requirements, open-access policies, or technical practices. Users and depositors will be informed of significant changes via the website.

This policy note is intended to provide a clear, concise guide for researchers, institutions, and users of Research Minds Net. If a conflict arises between this note and any formal institutional repository policy or funder requirement, the stricter or more specific rule will generally apply.