Practical tips for authors

The following tips are intended to help you publish according to the open access principle.

Journal search   Check which open access journals are suited to your subject. You can find a list in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Journal impact factors are listed in the InCites Journal Citation Reports.

Most subscription journals also offer an open access option. Generally, it makes more sense to choose the 'green road' of open access over open access options offered by subscription journals, as self-archiving is free of charge.

Archiving   Please use the University's repository OPUS FAU for archiving publications. A range of document servers are also available for individual subjects. OpenDOAR offers an overview which allows you to search for specific disciplines. If you intend archiving a large number of publications, you may also like to try Dissemin. By entering your name you can find your own publications and archive them in Zenodo.

If you have transferred exclusive rights of use to a publisher, you may need to comply with the publisher's contractual terms and conditions when archiving documents. An overview is offered by the (legally non-binding) SHERPA/RoMEO list.

The problem can be avoided by trying as far as possible to not transfer exclusive rights of use to publishers. The Copyright Addendum Engine allows you to create a suitable addendum to contracts online.

Financing   Funds for open access can generally be applied for in advance for projects funded by third parties. In addition, FAU also offers an open access publication fund for articles in purely open access journals. Publications in subscription journals are not included in this, however. Please contact the University Library for details about funding.

Open access books

In addition to articles in journals, many books are now being published as open access. If you would like to publish an open access book yourself, FAU University Press can help.

Links and literature

Open access information platform:
https://open-access.net

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ):
https://doaj.org

InCites Journal Citation Reports
http://jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com

OPUS FAU:
https://opus4.kobv.de/opus4-fau/home

Directory of Open Access Repositories (OpenDOAR):
http://www.opendoar.org

Dissemin:
http://dissem.in

Zenodo:
https://zenodo.org

SHERPA/RoMEO-Liste:
http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

Copyright Addendum Engine:
http://scholars.sciencecommons.org

FAU links

FAU open access policy:
urn:nbn:de:bvb:29-opus4-68651

Open access publication fund:
https://ub.fau.de/en/writing-publishing/open-access/funding-requirements/

FAU advice on third-party funding:
https://www.fau.eu/research/services-for-researchers/

FAU University Press:
http://www.university-press.fau.de

FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER UNIVERSITÄT ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

Open access publishing at FAU –
Tips for authors
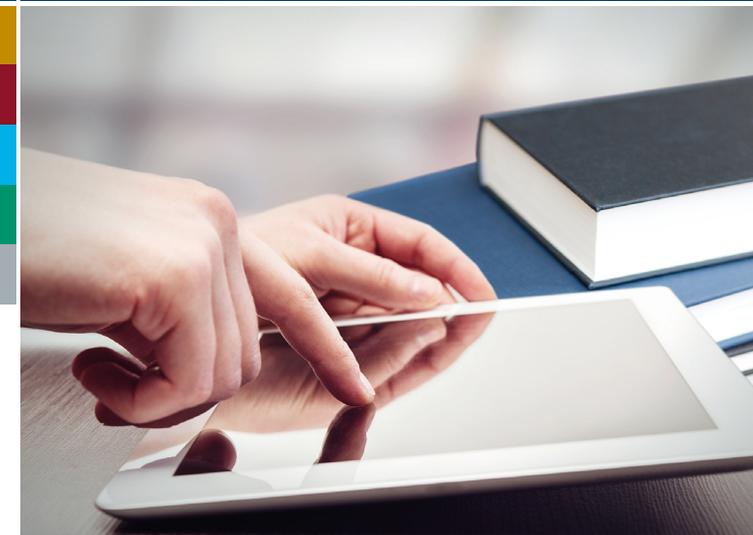
What does ‚open access‘ mean?

Open access stands for free online access to academic documents, with the goal of maximum dissemination and fast availability.

These efforts can be transferred to other areas of research and education – open educational resources are freely accessible digital teaching materials which are not connected to copyright collectives from either from a financial or administrative point of view. Open data refers to making research data available for secondary research. The source code for academic software can be published as open source and made available to the community to use or develop further.

The aim behind all of these trends is 'open science', in other words improved cooperation in international research by increasing the visibility of previous findings, making it easier for them to be found and used again.

The 'golden road' of open access

The term 'golden road' refers to primary publication in an open access journal.

For subscription-based journals, an open access option is often offered during the submission process in order to allow the article to be bought out of the subscription. This model cannot be financed through the FAU open access fund as it receives funding from the DFG. This would otherwise burden research funding with both subscription and open access fees.

Most publishers now also offer purely open access journals as part of their portfolio. Make sure to check the quality of them, for example using key bibliometric statistics and indexing in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

The 'green road' of open access

Archiving and publishing academic documents on document servers (repositories) in parallel with publishing them subject to licences or subscriptions is called the ‚green road‘, or self-archiving. Academic documents can normally be accessed by users and published free of charge on institutional and subject-related document servers such as PubMed Central, arXiv or EconStor.

Publishing on social networks such as ResearchGate is not green open access as such – you have to log in to access the platforms, which do not support any open interfaces or long-term archiving systems.

Sharing work via academic social networks also counts as a breach of copyright, unless the publisher has given their explicit consent. This can result in warnings and demands for damages to compensate for any financial losses.

Legal framework

The rights of use generally remain with the author with publications in open access journals. Special licences (e.g. Creative Commons licences) may govern the rights of use more closely.

If the document is published a second time via the 'green road' the requirements of the publishers must be complied with. This is also the case when using works which have already been published for any other purpose, for example for a cumulative dissertation. The SHERPA/RoMEO database offers an overview of publishers‘ terms. Please note that only the information from the publisher is legally binding such as the author contract or the open access, self-archiving or repository policies on the publisher's website. Section 38 UrhG (Copyright Act) may also apply to German publishers.

Advantages of open access

Open access offers several advantages:

- Free access to academic information
- Increased visibility and citation rates of publications
- Good accessibility via search engines and reference services
- The advantages of digital publishing, such as no space constraints, integration of other content
- Internationalisation of research
- Promotion of research efficiency through prompt discussion of research results
- Availability of research results to applied target groups and the public
- Long-term digital preservation through publication on document servers (such as OPUS FAU)

Projects funded by third parties

A further advantage is compliance with requirements set by third-party funding providers:

Open access publication and archiving on document servers (repositories) is now often obligatory with many third-party funding providers such as the European Union or the European Research Council.

In order to cover publishing costs, sufficient funds must be allocated in advance in the application for the project. Publication fees vary from small contributions per article to over $5000 for open access journals such as Nature Communications. The upper limits on costs set by the third party providing the funding should be taken into consideration.

Please contact the Department of Research Services and Research Development (F) or the University Library for assistance.