

# University of Sussex

## Statement on Open Access to Research

March 2015

1. This statement articulates the University's approach to open access to the results of its research.
2. The University supports the principles of open access (OA), as being a means to enable the widest access to its research, and hence the best chance of the results being used, both within and outwith the academy.
3. The University's preference is to use a Green route for OA.
4. The University has had a mandate since August 2011 for its researchers (staff and postgraduate research students) to record publication metadata and to deposit (where possible and permitted by the copyright owner) the content of all peer-reviewed research and related outputs<sup>1</sup>. The location for that record and content is Sussex Research Online (SRO).
5. The University now extends that mandate to require the deposit of the Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM) of journal articles and conference proceedings with an ISSN within three months of acceptance. This ensures that we are consistent with the published requirements for future Research Excellence Frameworks<sup>2</sup>. It is likely that many AAMs will be deposited subject to an embargo that will be applied once the item is published.<sup>3</sup> Deposit of the AAM may be in a relevant subject repository, with the University requiring that that deposit is linked to an institutional record of the item in SRO.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/documents/sro---institutional-repository-policies.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2014/cl072014/#d.en.86764> for the policy; <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/whatwedo/rsrch/rinfrastruct/oa/faq/> for the FAQs. See the question 'What is meant by the date of acceptance?' for an explanation of deposit of the AAM.

<sup>3</sup> With the publishers agreement, an author can request that the version of record is made public from SRO in preference to the AAM.

6. Decisions relating to what to publish, where and when are academic decisions, under the oversight of each School. The University's approach to publication decisions is as follows:
- a. Research outputs should be published in the most appropriate place (i.e. journal, conference proceeding, monograph, etc.), reflecting their topic and quality. Schools should make the academic judgements relating to the timing of the publication and the appropriateness of the journal, conference proceeding, publisher etc., ensuring the quality of the output and taking into consideration the career stage of the author(s).
  - b. Authors are responsible and Schools are accountable for ensuring that relevant publications comply with the funder's requirements, including funding attribution and licence type.
  - c. Given the University's preference, a compliant Green route should be selected for the preferred venue (i.e. one that meets the relevant funder's terms and also meets the REF requirements).<sup>4</sup>
  - d. Where a compliant Green route for the preferred venue is not available, the Gold route should be used, dependent on the availability of funds (e.g. those provided by the funder of the research<sup>5</sup> or those available through the author's School). When using the Gold route, researchers should ensure that they are aware of all their funder's requirements, including, for example, that a particular licence is applied (e.g. a CC-BY licence for RCUK and Wellcome Trust-funded research).
  - e. For RCUK-funded research, a block grant from RCUK is available to support their preference for the Gold route. Once those funds have been exhausted, a Green route with an extended embargo period (i.e. 12/24 months) may be considered (noting the relevant Council's acceptance of this).
  - f. Where there are no available OA options for the appropriate venue(s), it should be noted that this may restrict the ability of the University to include the output (where it is a journal article or conference proceedings with an ISSN) in future Research Excellence Frameworks. Reference should be made to the guidance issued by HEFCE, at footnote 2 above.

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<sup>4</sup> The compliance of a journal with a funder's requirements can be checked with the Library Research Support Team ([openaccess@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:openaccess@sussex.ac.uk)), or via the Sherpa FACT service at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/fact/>.

The REF requirements with respect to Green embargo period are a maximum of 12 months for Panels A and B (medical and life sciences; physical and mathematical sciences and engineering) and of 24 months for Panels C and D (social sciences, geography and built environment; arts and humanities).

<sup>5</sup> At the time of approval of this Statement, funds are provided to the University by the Research Councils, Arthritis UK, Breast Cancer Campaign, the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, and the Wellcome Trust to support publications arising from the research that they fund.