

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATIONS POLICY

Approved by Research & Innovation Committee (13 June 2024)

Why open access?

The University of Oxford supports researchers to ensure the widest possible access to research outputs, e.g. journal articles, conference papers, reports, books, book sections and chapters and working & discussion papers.

The value and utility of research outputs increases the more broadly they are available to be considered and used by others, including scholars, businesses and charities, and society in general. Research that is openly accessible helps to highlight the excellence of Oxford's research around the globe, raises the visibility of scholars and students, fosters collaboration, and maximises the intellectual, social, cultural, and economic impact of research.

A core component of Oxford's commitment to open access, as set out in the *University Strategic Plan*¹ and the *Bodleian Libraries Strategy*² is to support researchers to make their outputs open access.

Funder requirements for open access

Open access is mandated by many funders; the landscape is complex, with various policies and routes available to authors³. Open access is also required for the purposes of national research assessment exercises, such as the Research Excellence Framework (REF). The table below sets out the respective responsibilities of researchers and the Bodleian Libraries in supporting open access.

Oxford receives block grants from some funders to support open access publishing and thus to comply with funder policies. Annex 1 describes the principles by which these funds are managed. The University prioritises open access by means of self-archiving in its institutional repository - the so-called 'green' route - and has adopted *Rights Retention* to allow researchers to make author accepted manuscript versions of journal articles and conference proceedings available open access without embargo periods. Annex 3 contains a glossary of relevant terms.

Given the complexity and ever shifting nature of open access requirements, researchers are strongly advised to seek advice from the Bodleian Libraries (openaccess@bodleian.ox.ac.uk and <http://openaccess.ox.ac.uk/>) at the earliest opportunity - ideally as they are thinking of publication venue - on the open access and licensing options available to them

¹ [University Strategic Plan 2018-2024](#)

² [Bodleian Libraries Strategy 2022-2027](#)

³ [Open Access Publication Routes](#)

Researchers' Responsibilities

Academics, researchers, and graduate research students ('researchers') who are authors on research outputs should:

1. Seek advice on OA about eligible outputs at the point of considering a publication venue:

The Bodleian can advise on relevant issues, including: sources of funds, licensing / copyright options, conversations with co-authors about OA costs, and on the relationship between OA and IP.

Eligible outputs include journal articles, conference papers, reports, books, book sections and chapters and working & discussion papers.

2. Check whether their co-authors need to comply with funder OA policies, particularly if you are the corresponding author. If you are a co-author, notify the corresponding author of your funder.

Consideration should be given to budgeting for OA publication costs within the grant application, where permitted by the funder, and/or use of rights retention statements to ensure compliance.

3. Be aware that Rights Retention applies to all journal articles and conference proceedings written by employees of the University

Oxford employees by default give the University the rights to make the author accepted manuscript versions of journal articles and conference proceedings available open access without embargo periods. Researchers can choose to opt out of this on a work-by-work basis and more information is available at openaccess.ox.ac.uk/rights-retention. The detail of the grant of rights provided by employees to the University under Statute XVI is provided in Annex 2.

It is recommended that a rights retention statement is added to the manuscript of a journal article or conference proceeding before submitting it to the publisher as this may be a requirement of the funder. An explanation and a copy of the rights retention statement text is set out in Annex 3.

The University's Responsibilities

The University (via the Bodleian Libraries) will:

1. Support the academic freedom of researchers

Researchers may publish in their choice of publication, provided funder requirements are met and in the context of the University's principles for maximising the use of OA block funds (see Annex 1).

2. Provide an OA service that assists researchers to be compliant with their funders' OA policy and the requirements of research assessment exercises

This includes: administration of monies from funders to meet publishers' OA charges; provision of training, information, and platforms (see below); and advice on OA matters to researchers in order to make their work open and accessible.

3. Provide a centrally managed and maintained platform to manage the long-term preservation, continued access, and storage of material

ORA makes research outputs freely available as soon as possible (subject to the authors' and/or publisher's permissions and any confidentiality or commercial constraints), and to promote widespread discovery, dissemination and maximise citation of works.

4. Support diamond and community-driven / mission-led publishing models

<p>4. Check that publishing permissions and other rights listed by a commercial publisher are acceptable, before signing any contract such as a copyright transfer agreement.</p> <p>Authors are encouraged to retain their copyright, and to publish using the widest possible open licence i.e. Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY).</p> <p>5. At the time of acceptance, deposit a digital copy of the author accepted manuscript of all journal articles and conference papers in the Oxford Research Archive via Symplectic Elements</p> <p><i>Other publication types:</i> Researchers are also strongly encouraged to deposit the full text of all other publications, including monographs, book chapters, working & discussion papers, and reports.</p> <p><i>Research data:</i> Authors should either deposit into ORA or create a record of any underlying datasets and other research materials in accordance with the University’s Policy on the Management of Data Supporting Research Outputs¹, and funder details (where applicable).</p> <p>6. Obtain an Oxford-linked ORCID</p> <p>Use IT Self-Service or claim your ORCID in Symplectic Elements². By using your Oxford-verified ORCID at every available opportunity, e.g. when submitting publications or applying for grants, you ensure that you are credited for your work with the correct institutional affiliation.</p> <p>7. Comply with the terms and conditions of your research award and the University’s Statute and Regulations in relation to intellectual property (IP)</p> <p>Where appropriate, researchers are strongly encouraged to discuss with Oxford University Innovation the commercial potential of their research outputs before making a publication available under this policy. Making a publication available under this policy on OA terms will not affect the ownership of any IP which the University claims under Section 6 of Part B of Statute XVI: Property, Contracts, and Trusts.</p>	<p>New publishing models will be supported and sustained by institutional block grant funds, where possible and, in collaboration with Divisions and Departments, through savings made from existing library budgets.</p> <p>5. Undertake advocacy and collaboration with publishers and other bodies</p> <p>Efforts will be made to influence publishing policies, costs, and practices that affect Oxford authors. The Bodleian Libraries collaborates with Jisc and other UK HEIs to reach cost-effective publishing deals and influence national OA policy.</p>
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¹ [University of Oxford Policy on the Management of Data Supporting Research Outputs](#)

² [ORCID at Oxford LibGuide](#)

8. Graduate research students are required to deposit a digital copy of their thesis into ORA as a condition of award.^{1 2}

A thesis will be made open access on deposit unless the student has been granted a 1-year or 3-year embargo, or dispensation from consultation from their academic department.

¹ [Digital theses and ORA LibGuide](#)

² [General Regulations Governing Research Degrees](#)

Annex 1: Principles by which institutional block grants for open access are managed at Oxford

1. The block grants that the University receives from research funders annually to support open access are managed with the aim to maximise Open Access publishing across the University.
2. No central budget is currently available for open access publishing costs beyond that provided by funders.
3. The following principles apply in maximising the use of the open access block grants:
 - a. Researchers will be encouraged to use the green route to open access as a default, including through the use of rights retention statements;
 - b. Priority will be given to outputs published in venues that are covered by Read & Publish deals. The Bodleian's Read & Publish Review Group (in consultation with relevant Divisions and Departments) will approve a deal where, according to set criteria, where it is considered to offer good value to Oxford;
 - c. The payment of Article Processing Charges (APCs) will be prioritised for outputs published in fully open access journals (as indexed in DOAJ¹).
4. Funders do not permit certain publishing costs to be paid from block grants. These are: cover images, editorial assessment fees, extra page and colour charges, personal membership fees, reprints, submission charges, supplemental data publication fees, third party copyright charges.
5. All funds are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. Funds cannot be reserved for future use, so this approach corrects for the varying lengths it can take for a paper to pass through a publisher's workflow.
6. A set amount of Oxford's block grant will be ringfenced, where possible, to support diamond, community-led, and mission-led open access services and infrastructure.
7. Spend on the block grant is monitored regularly. Once each block grant reaches a certain capacity, new measures may be introduced to conserve funds. For example, it might be decided that only publishing charges for fully open access journals, and below a certain APC threshold, will be paid.
8. Where the University is engaging in negotiations for a publishing deal, a decision may be taken to suspend the payment of publishing charges with a particular publisher, or for certain titles, to influence a positive outcome to the negotiations.

¹ [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)

Annex 2: Rights Retention

The following grant of rights is provided in [Statute XVI: Property, Contracts, and Trusts, Section B, concerning intellectual property.](#):

9. (1) The University operates an Open Access Publications Policy which promotes making peer-reviewed research outputs available on an open access basis to increase their availability and use by others. Pursuant to the Open Access Publications Policy, those persons covered by the circumstances in section[s] 5(1)(a), (c) and (d)] automatically and in advance grant to the University a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide, sublicensable licence of the copyright which they own in certain peer-reviewed research outputs, to make those outputs publicly available under the terms of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, or alternative licence terms if requested, provided that such licence complies with any applicable funder requirements. The peer-reviewed research outputs licensed by those persons to the University are: articles, reviews and conference papers, which are accepted for final publication in a journal, conference proceeding or publishing platform.

(2) Those persons to whom section 9(1) applies shall, upon request by the University, take any steps and/or sign any documents necessary in order to give effect to the licence set out in Section 9(1).

(3) Sections 9(1) and 9(2) of this statute do not apply to student members of the University, even if the criteria set out in section 5(3) of this statute are met, and/or if any of the circumstances set out in sections 5(1)(a), (c) or (d) apply to student members.

Annex 3: Glossary of terms

Article Processing Charge (APC)	An APC is a fee paid to the publisher to make an article free at point of access. Whilst Open Access principles promote free availability of research and scholarly output, research papers are not cost free to produce. The cost of publication is moved from the reader (via subscriptions and pay-walls) to the author (via the APC).
Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)	Creative Commons Attribution CC BY means you can share, copy, distribute, transmit, remix a work for commercial purposes as long as you attribute (cite) the work
Diamond Open Access	Papers published via a Diamond model are Open Access but do not require the author to make or arrange a payment. Diamond Open Access journals tend to rely on volunteers, universities, and government for resourcing and financing
Green route	Articles published in a journal or conference proceedings with a freely available version of the article deposited in a repository
Open Access	Open Access literature is digital and freely available online, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, index, or link to the full text, or use for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers. 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.” (Adapted from BOAI http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/boaifag.htm#openaccess)
ORA	Oxford Research Archive: University’s institutional repository for research outputs
REF	Research Excellence Framework is the UK’s system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions, and is run by the four funding bodies in the UK - led by Research England for England
Rights retention	Rights retention is a funder led initiative that supports the self-archiving route to Open Access. It allows you to publish in a traditional subscription journal (and hybrid journals) and to make your manuscript available Open Access upon publication through self-deposit. This ensures the widest possible access to your research as well as meeting funder requirements.
Rights retention statements	Statement to add to your manuscript upon submission, where you apply a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence to your manuscript permitting immediate Open Access upon publication. After the article is accepted for publication (post peer-review) you should deposit your accepted manuscript into the Oxford Research Archive. The recommended rights retention statement is: This research was funded in whole or in part by [Funder] [Grant number]. For the purpose of Open Access, the author has applied a CC BY public copyright licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) version arising from this submission.
Symplectic Elements	University’s research information management system that provides data to support assessment (including REF), dissemination (including departmental websites), Open Access (including deposit route into the Oxford Research Archive), and reporting activities (including Researchfish collections).