

SCIENCE FOUNDATION IRELAND (SFI) POLICY RELATING TO THE OPEN ACCESS AVAILABILITY OF PUBLISHED RESEARCH

Where a research publication arises in whole or in part from SFI funded research (i.e. where one or other of the researchers concerned receives SFI funds in support of their endeavours), the following policy will be adhered to with effect from 1 February 2009.

The intellectual effectiveness and progress of the widespread research community will be continually enhanced where the community has access and recourse to as wide a range of shared knowledge and findings as possible. This is particularly the case in the realm of publicly funded research where there is a need to ensure the advancement of scientific research and innovation in the interests of society and the economy, without unnecessary duplication of research effort.

This publication policy confirms the freedom of researchers to publish first wherever they feel is the most appropriate.

The effect of the policy is intended to increase the visibility of, and improve access to, the research funded by SFI and the State, where such research is intended to be published by the researcher(s) concerned.

The policy is based on recognised best practice. It is in keeping with the recommendations of the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) Policy in relation to scientific publication. It is also in keeping with the combined OECD Ministers' Declaration entrusting the OECD to work towards commonly agreed Principles and Guidelines on Access to Research Data from Public Funding and with policies of other funding agencies in Ireland.

HOW DOES OPEN ACCESS WORK?

An open access repository is a storage and retrieval system where published research findings and papers would be stored and made available for full, open and free access by the research community and the general public.

A number of Irish universities currently provide open access repositories of their own and a consortium of Irish universities is engaged in the development of a national open access repository system, i.e., connecting the repositories of each participating institution for fuller public accessibility. See IREL-Open, www.irel-open.ie.

In an open access repository system, the usual copyright and fair practice considerations are not waived and publication on open access does not preclude prior publication in a recognised research journal or commercial publication.

Making scholarly publications available on open access allows them to be freely accessed by anyone worldwide using an internet connection. The potential readership of open access material is far greater than that for publications where the full text is restricted to subscribers only. Open access repositories are also designed to expose the details of their contents to web search engines.

CONDITIONS TO WHICH SFI-FUNDED AWARD RECIPIENTS ARE TO ADHERE

1. All researchers are required to lodge their publications resulting in whole or in part from SFI-funded research in an open access repository as soon as possible after publication.
2. The publication to be so deposited relates to accepted peer-reviewed publications, conference proceedings and technical reports.
3. Publisher's copyright, licensing and embargo policies must be respected.
4. The protection of intellectual property, in any form, arising from the publication takes precedence over open access depositing and indeed over any form of publication.
5. The time by which open access depositing is to take place ranges from immediately on publication, if possible, up to six months from the date of publication.
6. Institutional and disciplinary repositories should be used in preference to an author's own website. In the Life Sciences, PubMed Central and/or a future European PubMed Central should be used. Information on the Irish universities' institutional repositories is available through IREL-Open, www.irel-open.ie.
7. The publication to be deposited is to be the publisher's version, if permitted, or the author's final version. It is required that there be a link from the deposited version to the publication site, and also that the DOI (Document Object Identifier) be used.
8. On publication, whether in print or online with a DOI, metadata must be deposited in an open access (institutional, disciplinary, other) repository. Metadata comprises at a minimum the full bibliographic data.
9. Suitable open access repositories should make provision for long-term preservation of, and continuing free public access to, their contents.
10. Research monographs are within the scope of peer-reviewed publications. They must be deposited in an open access repository as soon as possible after publication, subject to the copyright which has been assigned to the publisher.
11. Wherever possible supporting research data should be made available in an open access repository at the time of publication of the research publication. Research data includes associated metadata and supporting documentation.
12. In the interest of reproducibility of scientific results, wherever possible, software should be made available in an open access repository at the time of publication of the research publication. Software is understood to include documentation on usage, and on methods and algorithms employed.