



European Research Council
Scientific Council

Established by the European Commission

Open Access Guidelines for research results funded by the ERC

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The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to support excellent research in all fields of science and scholarship. The main outputs of this research are new knowledge, ideas and understanding. The ERC expects its researchers to share these outputs in appropriate ways, including by publishing them in peer-reviewed articles and monographs.

The ERC considers that providing *free and unrestricted online access* to these materials can be the most effective way of ensuring that the fruits of the research it funds can be accessed, read, and reused as the basis for further research.

Open access to research publications

The ERC supports the principle of open access to the published output of research as a fundamental part of its mission. Accordingly, it

- *requests* that an electronic copy of any research article, monograph or other research publication that is supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding be deposited in a suitable repository immediately upon publication, and that open access be provided to that copy under the terms of the applicable Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions;
- *strongly encourages* ERC funded researchers to use domain-specific or discipline-specific repositories for their publications. A list of recommended repositories is provided in Appendix 1. If there is no such appropriate repository, researchers should use institutional repositories or general-purpose ones, such as Zenodo¹.

Research data management and sharing

The ERC expects that the researchers it funds manage their research data responsibly and in line with the FAIR principles². It supports the basic idea of open access to research data and data related products such as computer code under the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary". The ERC therefore

¹ <https://zenodo.org>

² <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18>

- *requests* that its researchers fulfil the requirements related to research data management and sharing as detailed in the applicable Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions;
- *strongly encourages* ERC funded researchers to use domain-specific or discipline-specific repositories for their research data. The ERC Scientific Council has issued a document on "[Open Research Data and Data Management Plans](#)" that provides information on research data repositories in different disciplines.

Costs

The ERC

- *reminds* its researchers that publishing costs (including open access fees) and costs associated to research data management may be eligible costs that can be charged against ERC grants, provided they are incurred during the duration of the project and the specific eligibility conditions of the applicable Model Grant Agreement are fulfilled;
- *asks* Host Institutions to cover publishing costs (including open access fees) of any research publications supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding, arising after the end of the project. The same applies to costs associated to the management of research data generated by the project that arise after the project's end.

This document has been drawn up to provide guidance to ERC funded researchers and their Host Institutions³. It will be reviewed periodically.

³ These guidelines are complementary to the clauses related to open access to publications and to research data management in the applicable Model Grant Agreement used for ERC actions.

Appendix 1: Recommended domain-specific repositories for scientific publications

The ERC recommends the use of Europe PubMed Central⁴ as repository for publications in the Life Sciences domain. It recommends the use of arXiv⁵ for publications in the Physical Sciences and Engineering domain, provided they fall into one of the disciplines covered by arXiv. The ERC does not currently recommend any specific repository for publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain.

Appendix 2: Recommended repository for monographs and book chapters

For book chapters as well as long-text publications such as monographs or edited volumes, the ERC recommends the use of the OAPEN Library⁶.

⁴ <https://europepmc.org>

⁵ <https://arxiv.org/>

⁶ <https://oapen.org>