

Open Access policy for public research councils and foundations

In June 2012, the Danish Council for Independent Research, the Danish National Research Foundation, the Danish Council for Strategic Research, the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation and the Danish Council for Technology and Innovation adopted their joint Open Access policy.

Research grants from The Danish Council for Independent Research (DFF), the Danish Council for Strategic Research, the Danish National Research Foundations, the Danish Advanced Technology Foundation, and the Danish Council for Technology and Innovation (in the following referred to as research councils and foundations) are essential for Danish and international research, innovation and economic growth.

Research furthers knowledge and drives the intellectual, social and economic development. Research councils and foundations find it important to strengthen the effect of research by ensuring free and cost-free digital access for everybody to state-financed research results. Open Access - i.e. access free of charge for everybody to read and use scientific information in digital form via the Internet - will improve the possibilities of a better utilisation of the most recent research results.

With this policy, research councils and foundations want to establish Open Access as the standard in scientific publishing. The aim is to ensure that all scientific articles, the quality of which has been assured by peer review and which have been published in a scientific magazine, can be read and distributed without any financial, technical or legal restrictions.

[Open Access Policy for Public Sector Research Council and Foundations of 21 June 2012](#)

[Contact letter to publisher](#)

[Addendum to Publication Agreement](#)

With this policy, research councils and foundations also want to make sure that the researchers will get a better foothold regarding copyright for their own articles in connection with scientific publication.

Furthermore, research councils and foundations have adopted the Berlin *Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities*, which is a milestone in the definition of and work with Open Access.

Requirements for the grant holder

The grant holder is - if the magazine allows it - requested to parallel-publish a digital version of the final, peer-reviewed scientific article which has been accepted by a scientific magazine. The article which is a result of full or part financing by research councils and foundations must be parallel-published in an institutional or subject-specific repository, i.e. a digital archive.

The parallel publishing of the scientific article can - at the request of the magazine - take place after an embargo period, i.e. a period in which the article is only available in the scientific magazine, of up to six or twelve months after publication in the scientific magazine. The waiting periods for the specific research areas must be as follows:

- Health science - 6 months
- Natural science - 6 months
- Engineering science - 6 months
- Agricultural and veterinarian science - 6 months
- Social science - 12 months
- The humanities - 12 months

The final, peer-reviewed scientific article which is subject to parallel publication must include all graphic and other materials prepared for the article. Research data shall be excepted.

The grant holder is responsible for making sure that relevant publication or copyright agreements with publishers are in accordance with the conditions for grants laid down by research councils and foundations in connection with parallel publication.

Such conditions shall be observed according to current copyright rules.

Which types of publication are included?

through peer review.

This means that the request for parallel publication does *not* include:

monographs

anthologies

books

popular science articles, i.e. articles processed by journalists without quality assurance through peer review.

What does this mean for the grant holder?

For the grant holder, this policy means:

I. that the grant holder must in connection with acceptance of an article for publication in a scientific magazine try to maintain the rights to parallel-publish an edition of the peer-reviewed and accepted scientific article.

How?

This can be done by using the draft letter and appendix for publication agreement for publishers/magazines which are available on the websites of research councils and foundations in Danish and English.

If the publishers accept the request, the grant holder maintains a non-exclusive and non-commercial right to publish his/her own scientific articles.

The above request for publishing via Open Access can also be met by publication by the grant holder directly in an Open Access magazine (complete or hybrid).

Research councils and foundations find it important that the grant holder should not compromise on the quality of the magazine in which he/she wants to publish. They are therefore recommended only to publish in an Open Access magazine if the profession finds that such a magazine exists at a high, well-reputed quality level.

II. that the grant holder ensures in connection with publication - possibly after the waiting period - that the article is parallel-published in an institutional or subject-specific repository.

library at the relevant institution or the responsible operator of the subject-specific digital archive.

III. that in connection with reporting to research councils and foundations, the grant holder will in the reporting form state links to the scientific publications subject to parallel-publication in Open Access as a consequence of full or part financing.

How?

The electronic form for reporting, links to the scientific articles published in Open Access must be stated (possibly with indication of the embargo period, if the waiting period had not ended on reporting).

If articles are as a consequence of full or part financing by research councils and foundations published in Open Access after the final reporting, a revised form must be forwarded, stating such articles with links.

Evaluation of the policy

No later than two years after the publication of this policy, it will be evaluated with a view to a discussion of the need to revise the policy.

[Contact letter to publishers](#)

[Addendum to publication agreement](#)

Open Acces Policy for Public Sector Research Council and Foundations of 21 June2012Contact letter to publisherAddendum to Publication Agreement

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This is the joint website for the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science.

The website includes the Ministry/the Department, Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation and Danish Agency for Higher Education.

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