Open Access Policy

Introduction

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (hereafter "the foundation") wants to maximize the impact of the important projects we fund. To this end, the foundation's Data Sharing and Intellectual Property Policy generally favors public access to grant outputs. This Open Access Policy applies these general principles to foundation-funded research published in peer-reviewed scholarly or professional journals. Pursuant to this policy, foundation grantees are expected to provide the widest possible access to their published research. Free and open access[1] to the outputs of research offers significant social and economic benefits and aids the development of new research. The foundation is committed to ensuring that published research be freely accessible.

Foundation Policy

The foundation has defined the following Open Access policy, which must be observed by all grantees when they publish foundation-funded research in peer-reviewed scholarly or professional journals.

  a. The foundation requires that a final (post-print[2]) version of all peer-reviewed articles produced as a result of research supported, either in entirety or in part, by the foundation's funding, be made publicly and freely available (open access[1], or OA) within 12 months of publication. Grantees can accomplish this either by publishing the article OA, by ensuring that the publisher will make the content OA within 12 months, or by depositing a post-print version of the manuscript in an OA repository[3] within 12 months.

  b. Fees associated with publishing OA can be paid with grant funds.

  c. This policy is part of the terms of the grant.

  d. If a grantee believes that the open access requirement would hinder grant impact, the grantee should contact their program officer about a potential exception to this policy, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

How to comply

Making an article OA, as this policy requires, can be done in one of four ways:

  1. Publish in a fully OA journal[5]. This may require payment of OA fees.
  2. Publish in a journal that makes their content OA within 12 months.
  3. Publish OA in a hybrid journal[4] - one that has a mix of OA and non-OA work. This may require payment of OA fees.

4. Publish non-OA (either in a hybrid journal or in a fully closed journal) and deposit a copy of the manuscript in an OA repository.

Grantees must make the post-print version available no later than 12 months after publication, and are encouraged to make it available sooner (i.e., immediately upon acceptance for publication) when possible. Check the journal's policy[6] for information on embargoes[7]. If a journal's permitted embargo period is longer than 12 months, grantees must either negotiate with the publisher to retain the rights to comply with this policy, or contact their program officer to explore other options.

Grantees should include URLs to OA versions of all articles in grant reports listing publications resulting from funding.

Definitions

[1] Open access

Open access (OA) content is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. OA removes price barriers (subscriptions, licensing fees, pay-per-view fees) and permission barriers. OA is compatible with copyright, peer review, revenue, print, preservation, prestige, quality, career-advancement, indexing, and other features and supportive services associated with conventional scholarly literature. The primary difference is that the costs are not paid by readers and hence do not function as access barriers.

[2] Post-print version

This is the final, peer-reviewed version of a manuscript. There are two types of post-print versions.

1. The publisher's final PDF version (sometimes called the "version of record"); and
2. The final version of the text approved by peer review and before typesetting (typically in a word processing format; sometimes called the "accepted author manuscript").

Both of these are acceptable versions to archive in an OA repository. Some publishers restrict the archiving of one or both of these versions in an OA repository. Check the journal's policy before depositing[6]. Note that archiving the preprint is not sufficient for compliance with the OA policy since it is not the final peer-reviewed version of the manuscript.

[3] OA repositories

OA repositories are services often offered by institutions or organizations that allow for deposit and distribution of open access content. Content is made freely available to the world, and may include preprints, peer reviewed post-prints that have been published in academic journals, and other digital content associated with research. Most major universities host an institutional OA repository (e.g., DASH for Harvard University or eScholarship for the University of California).

Other OA repositories include discipline-specific services such as arXiv for physics or PubMed Central for Biology. When universities host OA repositories, they usually take steps to ensure long-term preservation in addition to OA. The two websites below house databases of OA repositories that can be searched by university or discipline.

- [Registry of Open Access Repositories](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Repositories](#)

[4] Hybrid journals

These are journals that are traditionally closed access (usually subscription based) but will allow authors to pay a fee to make their article available OA.

[5] OA journals

Fully OA journals are those that have no subscriptions, fees, or other barriers to access their full content. A list of such journals can be found here: [Directory of Open Access Journals](#). Some of these journals have fees for publishing (sometimes called article processing charges, or APCs), while others do not.

[6] Understanding journal policies

To learn about a journal's policy, go to the [SHERPA/RoMEO website](#) and search for your preferred journal name. The site provides information on post-print archiving permissions and embargoes. If you have already agreed to a publisher's contract, the most authoritative and up-to-date source of information is the contract itself.

[7] Embargoes

Many publishers permit OA only after some delay, and this delay is known as an embargo. Standard publisher embargoes are typically 6 to 12 months. In some cases, the embargo only applies to archiving the manuscript in an OA repository, rather than posting it to a personal website. Check your journal's policy[6] to understand what is permissible and when.