



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM of MARYLAND

STATEMENT SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS DISSEMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

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Preface

The University System of Maryland (USM) is a major educational, research, economic, and social engine for the state, with a national reputation for excellence. The USM member institutions are major contributors to Maryland's competitiveness in the Innovation Economy. USM member institutions achieve and sustain national eminence through the creation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge and by maximizing the beneficial impact of knowledge for the advancement of society. The USM libraries and other councils listed above endorse the following statement in support of Open Access as a means for continuing and increasing the impact, recognition, and value of USM endeavors.

Statement

We encourage the faculty, researchers, and students within USM institutions to consider Open Access dissemination of their peer-reviewed research and other scholarly works. Open Access dissemination may include activities such as:

- publishing in high-quality peer-reviewed journals supportive of Open Access;
- retaining and exercising authors' rights to deposit versions of their peer-reviewed papers and other scholarly works into openly-accessible digital repositories.

We also encourage all USM institutions to review existing local policies and practices to ensure faculty, researchers, and students who choose to provide Open Access to their peer-reviewed research and other scholarly works are appropriately supported and accommodated. Guidance on implementing institutional support is readily available online and reflects hundreds of universities' experiences over the past two decades.¹

Open Access provides free online availability of peer-reviewed research articles, combined with the rights to use these articles fully.² Ideally, such works are made freely available online either immediately upon completion, or within specified limited periods. Today, more than 75% of Open Access works are freely available online within twelve months or less of initial release.³

One reason to consider Open Access is that it is a proven and effective strategy for increasing the visibility, use, and impact of peer-reviewed research and other scholarly works. Open Access scholarly works have a measurable and "indisputable" citation

advantage compared to works available only through paid subscriptions and purchases.^{4,5,6} This advantage has been confirmed across a wide range of scholarly disciplines in the sciences and humanities. Broad access and reduced barriers to discovering and using peer-reviewed research publications and data increases the impact and benefit of research investments, accelerates innovation, promotes entrepreneurship, and enhances economic growth and job creation.⁷ Open Access has been embraced by numerous national and international governments and coalitions, and learned and professional associations, as a viable and desirable strategy for reforming and improving the existing systems of scholarly publishing, for increased benefit to both science and society.⁸ A growing number of the primary governmental and private research funders are mandating that authors of funded research reports provide Open Access to research articles and data.⁹

Open Access also provides an attractive alternative to unnecessary copyright-transfer practices still common with many journals and publishers. Even though many peer-reviewed scholarly journals have moved to electronic formats over the past two decades, the prevailing scholarly communication systems in many disciplines still are based upon a traditional model from the era of print journals, in which authors of research articles are required to transfer some or all copyrights to journal publishers in exchange for publication of their works. This widespread transfer of copyrights and ownership allows publishers to impose a variety of technical, legal, and financial barriers to accessing authors' works. Such barriers inhibit the fullest potential dissemination of research and limit the benefits to readers, the authors themselves, and to society as a whole.

We encourage USM faculty, researchers and students to participate in reshaping traditional scholarly communication systems, to exploit the possibilities offered in the digital age. In the digital age, USM institutions' faculty, researchers, and students should be aware that they have many possible options for broadly disseminating their research, including the retention of key rights such as the right to make a version of their work openly-accessible.

In addition to numerous online resources to help authors understand Open Access and effective management of their copyrights¹⁰ the USM libraries are available to assist them in their efforts. The libraries provide necessary expertise, tools, infrastructure, and services that directly support the missions and values of USM institutions. Library staff can advise and support scholars and students in making their works more openly accessible over the long term, while still respecting and adhering to any shorter-term "embargo" or "release" periods that might be required by some subscription-based scholarly journals.

The USM, its member institutions, and the USM libraries are committed to protecting the rights and interests of creators of intellectual property under the conditions set forth in the *USM Policy on Intellectual Property*¹¹ and in maintaining the standards and procedures set forth in the *USM Policy on Appointment, Rank, and Tenure of Faculty*.¹² We recognize the value of different co-existing scholarly publishing models and are committed to allowing authors to continue choosing their preferred venues for publishing, but affirm the substantial scientific and societal benefits gained through Open Access to peer-reviewed research and other scholarly works.

References and Notes

1. One of the most thorough and popular guides is: Shieber, S. & Suber, P., eds. (2013 -). *Good practices for university open-access policies*. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://bit.ly/goodoa>.
2. SPARC (ca. 2016) *Open access*. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from: <http://sparcopen.org/open-access/>
3. Laakso, M. & Björk, B. (2013). *Delayed open access: An overlooked high-impact category of openly available scientific literature*. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*. 64 (7): 1323–1329. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/asi.22856/abstract;jsessionid=1557AEEE1A54833A03486803D491C07A.f02t01>
4. Lawrence, S. (2001). *Free online availability substantially increases a paper's impact*. *Nature*. 411 (6837): 521. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://www.nature.com/nature/debates/e-access/Articles/lawrence.html>
5. Archambault, E., Côté, G., Struck, B., & Voorons, M. (2016) Research impact of paywalled versus open access papers. *Copyright, Fair Use, Scholarly Communication, etc.*, Paper No, 29. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/scholcom/29/>
6. SPARC Europe maintains the *Open Access Citation Advantage Service* website (see <http://sparceurope.org/oaca/>) that provides an updated list of peer-reviewed studies that have compared citation frequency of OA versus non-OA research articles. The significant majority of those studies dating from 2001-2015 have repeatedly confirmed a citation advantage for OA works.
7. Holdren, J. (2013). *Increasing access to the results of federally funded scientific research* [Memorandum]. Washington, DC: Executive Office of the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_public_access_memo_2013.pdf
8. Selected examples of declarations and statements from international governmental and scholarly groups, learned societies, and professional associations:
 - a. *Budapest Open Access Initiative* (2002). <http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/>
 - b. *Montreal Declaration on Free Access to Law* (2002). http://www.worldlii.org/worldlii/declaration/montreal_en.html

- c. *Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing* (2003). <http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>
 - d. *Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities* (2003). <https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>
 - e. World Summit on the Information Society, *Declaration of Principles* (2003-2005). <http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/dop.html>
 - f. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, *Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding* (2004). <http://acts.oecd.org/Instruments/ShowInstrumentView.aspx?InstrumentID=157>
 - g. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, *Statement on Open Access to Scholarly Literature and Research Documentation* (2004). <http://archive.ifla.org/V/cdoc/open-access04.html>
 - h. *Durham Statement on Open Access to Legal Scholarship* (2009). <https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/publications/durhamstatement>
 - i. UNESCO Paris Open Educational Resources Declaration (2012). http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Events/English_Paris_OER_Declaration.pdf
 - j. UNESCO Open Access to Scientific Information (ca. 2012-2016) <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/access-to-knowledge/open-access-to-scientific-information/>
 - k. A more extensive list of relevant declarations can be found online at http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Declarations_in_support_of_OA
9. Prominent funders of research with OA dissemination requirements include the National Science Foundation (US), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (US), and the Wellcome Trust (UK). The U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) began enforcing its public access policy (<https://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>) in April 2008, requiring grant recipients to submit research to the digital repository PubMed Central no later than 12 months after publication. In 2013, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) directed other federal agencies annually funding over \$100M in research to make taxpayer-funded studies, including data, publicly available. For more information on a variety of U.S. and international governmental and non-governmental research funders' Open Access and Public Access dissemination requirements, see the SHERPA/JULIET service at <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php>.

10. Selected examples of useful resources for understanding Open Access and copyrights retention include:
 - a. Suber, P. (2012). *Open Access*. MIT Press. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/open-access>.
 - b. SPARC (ca. 2007-2016). *Author Rights and the SPARC Author Addendum*. <http://sparcopen.org/our-work/author-rights/>
 - c. Authors Alliance (ca. 2014). *Open Access FAQ*. <http://www.authorsalliance.org/2014/10/16/open-access-faq/>
11. University System of Maryland (2009). *Policy on intellectual property*. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionIV/IV320.html>
12. University System of Maryland (2016). Policy on appointment, rank, and tenure of faculty. Retrieved January 18, 2017, from <http://www.usmd.edu/regents/bylaws/SectionII/II100.pdf>