



European Research Council  
Scientific Council

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# Open Access Guidelines for researchers funded by the ERC

– revised October 2013 –

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## ERC SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2013

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, which the ERC expects its researchers to publish in peer-reviewed articles and monographs.

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

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

Accordingly, the European Research Council:

- 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. Open access should be provided as soon as possible and in any case no later than six months after the official publication date. For publications in the Social Sciences and Humanities domain a delay of up to twelve months is acceptable.
- strongly encourages ERC funded researchers to use discipline-specific repositories for their publications. A list of recommended repositories is provided in Appendix 1. If there is no appropriate discipline specific repository, researchers should make their publications available in institutional repositories or in centralized ones, such as Zenodo<sup>1</sup>.
- reminds ERC funded researchers that open access fees are eligible costs that can be charged against ERC grants, provided they have been incurred during the duration of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.zenodo.org/>

- encourages Host Institutions to cover open access fees of any research publications that are supported in whole, or in part, by ERC funding, which arise in the period up to 24 months after the end of the project.

The European Research Council supports the basic principle of Open Access to research data. It therefore

- recommends to all its funded researchers that they follow best practice by retaining files of all the research data they have used during the course of their work, and that they be prepared to share this data with other researchers whenever it is not bound by copyright restrictions, by confidentiality agreements, or by contractual clauses.

To further this principle the ERC Open Access Working Group is following, and participating in, developments in this area both to arrive at suitable protocols and to identify appropriate repositories for research data in different disciplines and domains.

This document has been drawn up to provide guidance to ERC funded researchers and their Host Institutions<sup>2</sup>. It will be reviewed periodically.

### ***Appendix 1: Recommended discipline-specific open access repositories***

The recommended repository for Life Sciences is Europe PubMed Central<sup>3</sup>; and for Physical Sciences and Engineering arXiv<sup>4</sup> is recommended. The ERC Scientific Council is currently not recommending any specific repository for Social Sciences and Humanities. However, it is reviewing existing practices and open access infrastructures in this domain and may make recommendations in the future.

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<sup>2</sup> These guidelines are complementary to Special Clause 39 of the FP7 ERC Model Grant Agreement / to the Horizon 2020 ERC Model Grant Agreement, which detail the legal obligations of the beneficiary with regard to open access, where applicable. More detailed guidance can be found in the document "ERC and Open Access – Frequently Asked Questions" available on the ERC website (<http://erc.europa.eu/about-erc/organisation-and-working-groups/working-groups/working-group-open-access>).

<sup>3</sup> <http://europepmc.org>

<sup>4</sup> <http://arxiv.org/>