

# The Academy of Finland promotes open access to research

The Academy of Finland advises researchers to publish their work following the principles of open access and open data.

When applying for funding from the Academy, researchers must include in their research plans a publication plan and a data management plan. The guidelines for these plans are described briefly in this document and in the September 2014 call for applications under Research plan/Publication plan and Research plan/Data management plan. This document includes more detailed information on open access and open data.

## 1 OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

### September 2014 call for applications: Research plan/Publication plan

The application must include a publication plan as part of the research plan.

We recommend that researchers deposit their articles and other publications in open-access *publication repositories*, either provided or recommended by the site of research.

We further recommend that researchers publish their results in *open-access scientific journals*, if there are such journals in the field in question that are at least of the same high quality as traditional subscription journals. Parallel copies should also be deposited in *open-access repositories*.

Academy funding is also available for research costs arising from publishing of research results (e.g. open access publishing using the golden route; hybrid forms are not recommended). This funding is applied for on the online form under *Funding for the project/Services* and justified in the research plan.

### Background: Publishing open access

The Academy advises that researchers primarily make their publications available on a **green open access** basis (if there are high-quality open access journals in the field). Most often, the green route means that researchers publish their articles in open access scientific journals and deposit the refereed articles in a repository hosted by their university, research institute or other relevant actor of the particular research field so that they can be made available free of charge. Most Finnish universities have guidelines and repositories for depositing and opening articles. If researchers do not have access to such resources, they may use scientific social networking sites such as [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu) or [www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net).

Publishers may define what kind of version of the article will be deposited and they may hold the article under embargo for a period of time before it is made freely available. The Academy has no formal recommendations or guidelines on these issues. From the researchers' perspective, however, the best option would be to make manuscripts as finished as possible (post-print, final draft refereeing or publisher's version/PDF) to shorten the embargo period (Horizon 2020 embargo periods: natural and medical sciences: max. 6 months, the humanities and social sciences max. 12 months<sup>1</sup>). The scope of the usage rights should be agreed upon with the publisher.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Guidelines on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Research Data in Horizon 2020 at [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/oa\\_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf).

The Academy also supports **gold open access**. This means that the article is made available on an open access basis immediately upon publication, most often via the publisher's own repository. In this case, the publisher may charge an open access fee (article processing charge). This is today the most common method of open access publishing.

As of the Academy's September 2014 call, Academy funding is also available for article processing charges arising from publishing of research results on a gold open access basis. The charges vary from journal to journal, ranging from tens of euros to several thousand euros. The average processing charge is about 1,000 euros, but it has risen each year.<sup>2</sup>

The Academy does not recommend that researchers publish their work in **hybrid open access** journals. In hybrid journals, publishers charge a fee for making an article open access. These fees are usually much higher than the article processing charges used in gold open access. In addition, hybrid journals may charge both an open access fee and a subscription fee.

These guidelines are best suited for open access publishing of refereed articles, but they may in some cases also be applied to other publication types, such as monographs.

## 2 OPEN DATA

### September 2014 call for applications: Research plan/Data management plan

The Academy of Finland requires that the research plan includes a data management plan. The plan should describe:

- how the project proposes to obtain and use its research data
- the rights of ownership and usage to the data used and generated by the project
- how the data produced by the project (or through research infrastructures) will be stored and subsequently made available to other researchers
- how the data will be protected (if necessary).

We recommend that Academy-funded researchers also investigate the possibility of long-term storage of data. Our recommendation is that research data are stored and made available through major national or international repositories, such as:

- [the Finnish Social Science Data Archive \(FSD\)](#)
- [the FIN-CLARIN consortium](#)
- [the CSC's IDA Storage Service](#) and its Kata metadata catalogue and [AVAA](#) open-access publishing platform
- CERN's [Zenodo service](#).

### Background: Making data available

The Academy also recommends that researchers make their research data available to other researchers. Previously, applicants were asked to include in their research plans information on the storage of data. Now, we also want a description of how the data will be made available to others.

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<sup>2</sup> Laakso and Björk: Anatomy of open access publishing: a study of longitudinal development and internal structure. BMC Medicine 2012 10:124, [www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/10/124](http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/10/124).

Usually, there are no costs associated with making research data broadly accessible. This is because the principles and support concerning open data are the responsibility of national or international data repositories or databases, which primarily offer their services free of charge. However, making research data available can be a slightly arduous task (e.g. making data anonymous, writing metadata, turning data into machine-readable form), which is why early planning for open data is key.

As before, the Academy recommends two established databases: [the Finnish Social Science Data Archive \(FSD\)](#) and [the FIN-CLARIN consortium](#). Despite its name, the FSD does accept data in the fields of medicine and the humanities as well (where possible). FIN-CLARIN, in turn, is based at the University of Helsinki and is focused on linguistic data.

As of the September 2014 call, two new repositories have been added to the list of recommended open data resources. [CSC, the IT Center for Science](#), has opened three services for open data. The [CSC's IDA Storage Service](#) offers data storage opportunities for Academy-funded researchers. The CSC's Kata metadata catalogue, in turn, is the preferred storage location for metadata, regardless of where the actual research data are stored. Lastly, the CSC's [AVAA](#) open-access publishing platform offers applications for the use of open access data. In addition, and alternatively, the Academy recommends the [Zenodo service](#) as a service for sharing and storing research results.

*Approved by the Academy's Vice President for Research, 26 June 2014*