Open Access

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1.0   Introduction

Wesley Research Institute (WRI) is committed to high impact research that has broad relevance across the community. To facilitate this, the institute recognises the importance of open access scholarly output, which helps disseminate research, encourages collaboration and is consistent with the open access requirements of numerous funding bodies.

2.0   Purpose

This policy sets out the institute's expectations for the dissemination of research findings in open access forums.

3.0   Scope

This policy is applicable to all research staff including permanent, casual, secondment, full-time and part-time arrangements. It is also applicable to honorary appointments and students hosted at the institute.

This policy is not applicable to Higher Degree Research (HDR) theses and variations may occur for consultancies.

4.0   Principles

4.1   Open access requirements

The institute is accountable for the transparent dissemination of scholarly works. Researchers can support this by the dissemination of their research output through numerous routes as long as the record is free to read and has a Creative Commons Attribution 'CC BY' licence.

Note that the institute does not assert ownership on intellectual property rights of scholarly works (per RS05 Intellectual Property) but researchers must not publicly disseminate unprotected research output if it has commercial value.

The acceptable routes for open access dissemination include:

a.   Journal-based open access: This requires a fee or article processing charge (APC);
b.   Repository-based open access: This does not require a fee or APC, but it requires the deposition of an author accepted manuscript (AAM) in an open access repository immediately upon publication; or
c.   Partaking in emerging innovations in open access publication, such as 'Publish – Review – Curate (PRC)', in which (i) scholarly works are published prior to review (i.e., preprints), (ii) informal feedback is received by the scientific community, and (iii) curation editors select articles for publication in a relevant journal/other forum.

In regard to Option a, please note that higher education providers (HEPs) are increasingly negotiating 'Read and Publish' and 'Transformative' agreements in which publication fees and APCs are waived for select publishers. These arrangements can be used but please note that the institute must remain the primary affiliation as described in 'RS02A Affiliations Policy'. Currently, the institute is aware of the following agreements in Southeast Queensland:

UQ: https://web.library.uq.edu.au/library-services/researchers/publish-and-share/read-and-publish-agreements-2023
Griffith: https://www.griffith.edu.au/library/research-publishing/open-research/read-and-publish-agreements
QUT: https://caul.libguides.com/read-and-publish
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Publication fees and APCs must also be considered first from the original funding source of the project. For example, in the case of an NHMRC funded initiative, publication fees cannot be initially built in as a direct research cost for a grant submission but funds can eventually be used for publication fees such as APCs that are a result of the research activity.

In regard to Option b, please note that ResearchGate, Academia.edu and 'pirate sites' (i.e., websites that disregard copyright) are not recognised as open access repositories by funding bodies or the institute. Please note that a publisher-requested delay or 'embargo period' for the deposition of an AAM is a breach of this policy and must be refused.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

All research staff, honorary fellows and students are responsible for understanding and adhering to this policy. Further information can be found at the following locations:

a. Open access journals: https://doaj.org/
b. Open access repositories: https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/opendoar/
c. Read and publish agreements: https://caul.libguides.com/read-and-publish
d. Trusted publishers tool: https://thinkchecksubmit.org/

Frontline leaders are responsible for the monitoring of this policy's use within their team/s. Concerns and issues should be escalated to the Head of Research Operations for further investigation, which may involve an independent stakeholder such as a Research Integrity Advisor (RIA) or similar.

6.0 References and Related Documents

6.1 References

6.1.1 Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018
6.1.2 NHMRC Open Access Policy 2023
6.1.3 NHMRC Direct Research Costs Guidelines 2017
6.1.4 Towards Responsible Publishing: A Proposal From cOAlition S 2023

6.2 Related Documents

6.2.1 RS02A Affiliations Policy
6.2.2 RS02B Authorship and Acknowledgements Policy
6.2.3 RS05 Intellectual Property Rights

7.0 Version History

Version No.	Approver	Implementation Date	Summary of Change
1.0	Andrew Barron	1/02/2024	Introduction of Policy