

Funding bodies mandates and policies

A number of funding bodies in the UK have in the last few years chosen to adopt Open Access mandates for data and research publications resulting from funded projects. The funding bodies have chosen to implement these mandates in different ways depending on the type of content and the funding body's wish and ability to influence journal publishers.

Research Councils UK (RCUK) Open Access Principles:

"The Research Councils are committed to the guiding principles that publicly funded research must be made available to the public and remain accessible for future generations."

"Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) have developed the following statement to set out the principles of how they will work together to ensure greater open access to published research:

"Research Councils UK and HEFCE have a shared commitment to maintaining and improving the capacity of the UK research base to undertake research activity of world leading quality, and to ensuring that significant outputs from this activity are made available as widely as possible both within and beyond the research community. Open access to published research supports this commitment and, if widely implemented, can benefit the research base, higher education, and the UK economy and society more broadly. To achieve this, open access needs to be implemented with clear licensing agreements, sustainable business models, and working with the grain of established research cultures and practices.

HEFCE and the Research Councils will work together and with other interested bodies to support a managed transition to open access over the medium term, and welcome the work of the UK Open Access Implementation Group in support of this aim."

David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science announced the commitment in a speech to the Association of British Science Writers on 24 May 2011"

A wide range of information and advice is available from the RCUK web site (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>) web site.

An overview of funding bodies' open access policies for journal articles and research is to be found on the [Juliet](#) service. The mandates generally specify details as to when a research paper should be archived, what should be archived (version of paper) and where to archive.

Examples of mandate requirements are:

Deposit in an institutional repository - Bucks Knowledge Archive

Deposit in a national repository - OpenDepot (<http://www.opendepot.org/>) possibly when there is no repository within the funded institution.

Deposit in a disciplinary repository - PubMed Central (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>)

Deposit in the funding body's own repository.

Usually the researcher can choose to deposit in any of these. Guidance should be sought as early as possible in a research project to ensure full compliance with research funding conditions and full availability of material via the BKA. It is never too early to ask for advice on this topic.