

Factsheet: Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications

On Friday, February 26, 2015, the Canadian federal granting agencies SSHRC, NSERC and CIHR released the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#).

Who Is Affected?

- For research funded by SSHRC and NSERC, this applies to grants awarded May 1, 2015 and onward. If funded by CIHR, this policy applies to grants awarded since 2008.
- The onus for compliance will be on the individual who is the primary recipient of funding from these agencies.
- The policy applies only to peer-reviewed journal articles that result from this funded research.
- The articles must be made freely and openly available (see options below) within 12 months of publication.
- The policy stipulates that the version of the manuscript to be deposited must be the final full-text peer-reviewed manuscript (or the published version if allowed).

What Options Are Available for Making Articles Open?

- If you publish in an Open Access journal, you need not do anything more (although you may of course deposit into an archive/repository as well). If the journal has article processing charges (APCs), these are considered eligible grant expenses.
- If the journal in which you publish your article allows for deposit into repositories (see <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/> for publisher/journal policies),
 - ♦ You may deposit your article in a subject repository if one exists in your discipline (e.g., PubMed Central Canada, arXiv.org).
 - ♦ You may deposit your article into a research repository if one exists at one of the authors' home institution. (Note: The StFX Library is beginning the process of building such a repository.)
- If the journal in which you publish your article does not allow for deposit in a repository within 12 months, you will likely have to pay to make the article open on their site (this is considered an eligible grant expense – see *Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide*).

How Can You Prepare?

- Keep this policy in mind when deciding where to submit your manuscript. Your Liaison Librarian can help you research journals' policies regarding open access.
- Hold on to the final version of the manuscript (post-refereed and post-edits) since many publishers will not allow you to deposit the final laid-out version they present on their website.
- Budget for open-access publication fees (article processing charges) in NSERC and SSHRC research grant applications.

On the horizon

For the time being, the Agencies' policy only requires deposit of the peer-reviewed articles produced from funded research. However, the agencies have stated that they are also interested in developing a policy requiring the deposit of research data resulting from funded research.

Note: One of the funders, CIHR, already has a policy that requires the “deposit (of) bioinformatics, atomic, and molecular coordinate data into the appropriate public database (e.g., gene sequences deposited in GenBank) immediately upon publication of research results” (see <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html>)

Library Support

The Liaison Librarians and the Scholarly Communications Librarian can help you with:

- Assessing journals (OA or otherwise) prior to submission;
- Identifying reliable OA journals in a discipline;
- Identifying existing subject repositories;
- Interpreting OA options from publishers;
- Negotiating with publishers to retain copyright.

The Library will continue to investigate and develop additional scholarly communications services, such as:

- An institutional research repository for StFX;
- Open Access education;
- Assistance in creating data management plans.

Research Office Support

The StFX Research Office is working closely with the Scholarly Communications Librarian to ensure that researchers' publishing needs are met as this new Open Access Policy is rolled out. It is crucial that researchers continue to have the opportunity to publish in journals with the highest possible impact.

The Research Office will be co-sponsoring information sessions to gather faculty members' concerns and will relay these to Ottawa for consideration in updates to the Open Access Policy. The Office will also consider what additional institutional support may be required to address this evolving situation.

The policy:

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=F6765465-1>

FAQ: <http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=A30EBB24-1>

More StFX Library resources related to Open Access:

<http://stfx.libguides.com/openaccess>

http://sites.stfx.ca/library/evaluating_OA_journals