

Open Access Policy Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Background

Open Access stands for unlimited and free access to quality-controlled academic information in the Internet. Through the removal of technical, financial and legal barriers, Open Access is instrumental in accelerating academic innovation processes and improving the visibility of research results. This supports those working in academia in their research and publication processes, and maximises the benefits of publicly funded research. As a member of the Leibniz Association, the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research is committed to Open Access. It thereby adheres to the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"¹ and the "Guidelines on Open Access within the Leibniz Association" ("Leitlinie zu Open Access in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft")².

Recommendations and obligations

The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research advises its academic staff to publish its/their research results in accordance with the principles of Open Access. At the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, this is carried out as quickly as possible via publications in Open Access publication media and – within legal limitations – by making the publications accessible via document servers (repositories) either in parallel with publication or retroactively as soon as possible. For immediate Open Access publications, the institute recommends publishing under a free usage licence (currently e.g. Creative Commons Attribution³).

In order to assure the option of a parallel or retroactive Open Access publication, the academic staff of the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research is encouraged, to consider to not grant exclusive rights of use to publishing companies when entering a publishing contract, but instead to – as far as is possible – secure their own permanent right of use and transfer non-exclusive rights of use to the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research for the institutional and/or a subject-specific repository. This is the only means by which to secure Open Access use in addition to all forms of commercial use by publishing companies. The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research recommends to its academic staff that they also apply for third-party funding for open-access publication fees when submitting project proposals.

The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research also views research data as a valuable result of its research activities. There is a policy to be separately drawn up governing the handling of and access to research data in effect at the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research.

Implementation

The Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research promotes Open Access by⁴:

- Identifying publications by its academic staff which are legally eligible for Open Access (e.g. via integration into the publication management system) and making them accessible via [name of the institute's repository].
- Indexing freely accessible publications by its academic staff with LeibnizOpen.
- Providing its academic staff with funding opportunities to meet publication fees for Open Access publication media, e.g. via a publication fund.
- Advising its academic staff on Open Access and supporting them in clarifying issues concerning Open Access publication of their research results. For this purpose, the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research is creating the post of Open Access Consultant.

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passed and approved

within the meeting of the board of directors on July 6th, 2015

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¹ <http://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

² Leitlinie zu Open Access in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft. http://www.leibnizgemeinschaft.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Infrastruktur/OpenAccess-Leitlinie.pdf

³ <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

⁴ The list is an example only, and must be adapted to the local conditions. In addition, cf. the following "Components for implementing an Open Access Policy".