OPEN ACCESS POLICY AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CRETE

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Open Access at the Technical University of Crete and its library

What is Open Access?

Open Access is the recommended solution to the problem of restricted access to research results caused by increased subscription costs of electronic information resources. The term "Open Access" refers to the practice of providing the user with uncharged web access to scientific information sources such as journal articles, e-books, and research data and so on, under licensed terms of use, in order to be extensively utilized by other scientists, industry or individuals.

Important landmarks for OA promotion are the Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002) and its declaration document, a Greek translation of which is available here, as well as the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities (October 2003), a Greek translation of which is available here.

How is Open Access provided ?

Self-Archiving (Green Road): In the process of self-archiving, the author deposits a peer-reviewed electronic copy of the work in an institutional or subject repository, where it can be publicly accessible without any charges. The repository platform allows the institution to manage, preserve and promote its intellectual property. In addition, a repository is a valuable tool for scientific information management as well as for the assessment of the parent institution, as it provides added-value services to the scientific community. Moreover, it is remarkable that publishers and journals worldwide, usually give the authors the opportunity to self-archive in repositories or personal web pages, published research or papers to be published, even in their final version. The policy that each publisher follows in relation to the open access can be found in SHERPA/RoMEO website.

Open Access Publications (Gold Road): The author publishes his/her work directly in open access journals or series of monographs. These publications are freely accessible by the end users via internet. However, the authors are obliged to pay publication fees (Author/Articles Processing Charges) in many cases. The Technical University of Crete encourages the Gold Road practice provided that the publisher of the open access source is recognized by the international scientific community and that there is efficient funding for the research program.

Open access publishing requires evaluation processes corresponding to conventional publishing, although the access to full content is free. Subsequently, the content quality of a publication is not related with the status of access to it (charged or uncharged).

What are the benefits of Open Access?

If all legal, commercial and technological obstacles in accessing scientific information are abolished, the research process becomes more efficient and its results more recognizable. Moreover, Open Access prevents the overlapping in research efforts, strengthens knowledge and transmission of technology and promotes innovation.

The stakeholders that benefit from Open Access are:

Institution and authors gain direct recognition for their research activity and as a result the dissemination and use of their research outcomes increases. In addition to that, Open Access leads to a rise to the impact of conducted research, promotes international collaboration and opens new paths for finding funding opportunities and sources.

Researchers gain time in searching for journal articles and other information resources, which are not accessible via their academic library. Furthermore, they can export information or data from papers, usually from different scientific fields, in order to create new knowledge, using text and metadata searching technologies, which are successfully applied to open content.

Funding institutions, universities and research centers have the opportunity to observe the quality and the transparency of research process, the return on research investment while they can also increase their reputation nationally as well as internationally. In addition, they may adopt new models for research evaluation based on alternative indicators (altmetrics).

Libraries are potential gainers of Open Access, as it allows them to provide their users further access to scientific content at the same time that the expenditure for journal subscriptions is being reduced. Investing properly on skills and infrastructures, offers the capability to libraries acquire new role as providers of open access services (e.g. repository management, publishing activities) and consulting services on the field of sharing knowledge throughout scientific community.

Editors, who adopt Open Access, could gain more exposure for their journal titles, more transparent business models and they could become receptive to new opportunities focusing on providing new added value services to their community.

Small or medium- scale companies could benefit in great scale from immediate and open access to innovative scientific projects, developing and introducing new products and services, becoming in that way more competitive. Restricted access to scientific results, included in expensive subscription contracts, is a significant barrier for small or medium-scale companies to develop innovative projects.

Finally, a broader, transparent and improved promotion of scientific process, which in reality refers to access to knowledge, leads to highly skilled and informed citizens about scientific issues who are able to act successfully in the complex and challenging environment of the 21st century.

Current European Policies

The recent interest in open access policies is the outcome of a long-term preparation and work in order to promote the significance of open access to researchers and open access proponents. In addition, it is a result of the technological progress in the field of electronic infrastructures, such as repositories and e-journals, which have been accelerated due to information and communication technology developments. The increased understanding of the benefits of open access, increase the funding of open access projects (which nowadays have research sponsors) at the same time that the widely supported idea, that public funded research should be available to everyone, makes the evolution of related policies necessary, in order to set open access as a standard practice for research dissemination.

European Union supports Open Access as the institutionalized method of the public funded research dissemination throughout E.U. and refers to unconstrained access to knowledge as one of the five priorities of the European Field of Research. In summer 2012 the E.U recommended to member states to develop national policies, providing Open Access to public funded research, according to which other stakeholders would develop their policies in national and European level. Moreover, it will be mandatory for all evaluated publications that will derive from the Horizon 2020 framework funding program, to appear in print under Open Access status. This decision derives from the pilot action for Open Access, which was activated in the FP7 Framework Program for a particular period.

The most important developments in the field of access policies are the increased number of research funding institutions, that apply Open Access policies as well as the institutions that conduct research, worldwide and especially in Europe. Significant public and private funding institutions apply mandatory Open Access Policies, In this way they prepare the ground for Open Access to become the established method of knowledge dissemination, leading other research stakeholders to take the initiative for changing the publication terms.

The [Open Access Tracker](#), a tool which has been developed within the project MedOANet (Mediterranean Open Access Network), provides a clear picture of the advances in developing Open Access Policies in the six countries of Mediterranean, on which the program focused (Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal, France, Turkey).

The 71st Summit of Greek University Rectors which took place at Patras, on 30th November 2012 issued a resolution with which they incorporated the principles of Open Access to bibliography and signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities.

The resolution encourages all Rectors to sign Berlin Declaration and recommends to academic institutions to take related initiatives, such as developing open access academic repositories followed by research papers' deposition in them, organize actions to inform and sensitize the academic community about Open Access. Moreover, the resolution urges researchers to publish in Open Access Journals. These decisions are expected to affect the advances in the field of Open Access in Greece.

Open Access Policy at Technical University of Crete

Technical University of Crete expects from its members to maximize the access, use and applications of their research outcomes. For that reason:

From **6th November 2014 onwards** (391st Senate's Board meeting), Technical University of Crete:

1. Suggests/encourages its members to deposit in the Institutional Repository of TUC an electronic copy of peer-reviewed journal articles, books/monographs, conference proceeding and technical reports, that have been accepted for publication (either writer's or editor's final version). Deposition of Diploma/master/doctoral thesis, which have been conducted at TUC in order to fulfill the requirements of a degree, is mandatory.
2. Requires, that the metadata (title, author, membership, source, etc), of all publications, that are defined above, are accessible directly after deposition.
3. Suggests that full-text version of all publications defined above, are freely accessible from the moment of deposition or as soon as possible. In case of publications that cannot be directly available, due to publisher's restrictions, deposition is still required whereas access in full-text will be possible only after a specific time period defined by the publisher.
4. Will regard as publications all the publications of the TUC members/staff, the metadata and the full-text of which have been deposited in the Institutional Repository of TUC for purposes of research.
5. Monitors the compliance with its policy by comparing the repository content to what have been recorded by other citation indexes services.

The above regulations are applied to publications generated after the validation date of this policy.

Furthermore, the Technical University of Crete,

Encourages academic/research staff to keep the intellectual rights property on their publications, whenever it is possible, and to license the publishers only with the rights that are necessary for publicizing. A good example of publishing contract to be signed is provided by the SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition). At SPARC authors may find good template of an addendum of a publication contract, which is widely used to safeguard their intellectual rights.

Encourages its members to deposit in Institutional Repository or in another appropriate open access data repositories. [Open Access Repositories provide public access to research results, allow reference to research data via persistent document e.g DOI or other, preserve qualitative metadata (including the name of research sponsor), and are based on common directional frames and standards. Zenodo is recommended as one of these open repositories, which has been developed under the European project OpenAIRE]. All research datasets are useful as evidence for the publicly accessible reports or/and to refer to peer-reviewed publications.

Final annotations:

The Technical University of Crete is committed to ensure the curation and the long-term preservation of research outcomes that are deposited in its Institutional Repository. In addition to that, TUC is committed to increase the number of resources, tools and attributes of the repository, to facilitate the process of deposit, to train researchers in order to use it, to provide information about intellectual rights and to plan on its administration data storage.

Despite the fact that current policy on Open Access is referred to publications that appear after the validation date of the meeting proceedings, Technical University of Crete encourages its members to deposit in Institutional Repository all publications they own as authors, even if produced before that date, and make them freely accessible whenever this is permitted.