The Tri-Agency Open Access Policy: How the Library can help

The Policy: All peer-reviewed journal publications resulting from funding by the Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) must be freely available online within 12 months of publication.

To comply with the Tri-Agency Policy, you must either:

- Archive the post-print or the published version in an institutional or subject repository.
- Publish in an Open Access journal

The Health Sciences Library can work with you or on your behalf to deposit your articles in MacSphere, McMaster’s institutional repository.

Librarians can help you identify high-impact scholarly OA journals, which are subject to the same rigorous peer review that subscription-based academic journals are.

Definitions:

Open Access
Publications that are free to read on the Internet. Readers can download, copy, and distribute an Open Access publication, as long as credit is given to the authors.

Open Access Gold
Journals in which readers do not require a subscription or any other form of payment, either personally or through their university or library, to access the content. e.g. PLoS One

Open Access Green
Refers to self-archiving (typically, of articles published in conventional subscription-based journals) in a subject or institutional repository.

Institutional Repository
An online collection of the scholarship of an institution’s researchers. Institutional repositories both preserve the intellectual output, and allow for wide distribution. McMaster’s institutional repository is MacSphere. Institutional repositories are also called research repositories.

Subject Repository
An online collection of publications in a particular subject area. The repository collects, preserves and provides open access to the publications. Examples include arXiv, RePEc, and PubMed Central Canada. Subject repositories are also called disciplinary repositories.

Post-print, Version of Record, Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM), Post Peer Reviewed Manuscript
Terms used to describe the accepted version of an article after peer-review, with revisions having been made.

Note: The Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications applies to all grants awarded after May 1, 2015. Recipients of graduate scholarships and fellowships are not required to adhere to the policy, although the Agencies encourage open access to all research publications.
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1. Choose your journal
   Identify the journal(s) that best satisfy your publishing goals

2. Understand the journal’s policy on copyright and self-archiving
   For help:
   • Contact the Health Sciences Library Information desk
   • Visit the journal publisher’s website
   • Use SHERPA/RoMEO to understand author retained rights
     www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

   Does the journal allow archiving within 12 months of publication?
   Yes
     • Deposit the article in McMaster’s institutional repository, MacSphere, or
     • Deposit the article in PubMed Central Canada
   No

   Is the journal open access?
   Yes
     Include adequate funding in your grant application to cover article processing charges (APCs)
   No

   Is it a hybrid journal?
   Yes
     • Use an author addendum to allow article archiving within 12 months or,
     • Negotiate the terms of the copyright transfer agreement or,
     • Choose another venue to publish your article.
   No

Definitions:

**Article Processing Charge (APC)**
A fee levied by an open access publisher to cover costs associated with publication. Fees can range from $200 to $5000 or more per article.

**Author Addendum**
A legal instrument that modifies the publisher’s copyright transfer agreement and allows you to keep rights to your article(s). E.g. SPARC Canadian Author Addendum

**Hybrid Journal**
A journal in which only selected articles are openly available to readers without a journal subscription. Hybrid journals require that authors pay an ‘unlocking’ fee, referred to as an article processing charge (APC).

Questions? Interested in learning more?
Contact the Health Sciences Library Information Desk or visit library.mcmaster.ca/scholarly-communication/open-access