DM 1987509

Business Finland requires open-access scientific publishing

Business Finland is committed to the objectives and approaches of open access science and research. We aim to make publications and the non-confidential information produced by public research organisations readily available for further use. Open-access publishing promotes the wider use of research results for research and for the purposes of economy, business and industry.

Open-access publishing is a requirement in Business Finland -funded research projects carried out by public research organisations. The project research plan must include a publication plan in which open-access publishing is taken into account. We recommend that you consult your own organisation's guidelines on open-access publishing.

Business Finland encourages researchers to adopt parallel publishing, as applicable, to ensure simultaneous open access to publications produced with Business Finland funding, in other words to save publications in a machine-readable format in the appropriate publications archive or database, where they can be accessed free of charge.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to observe the instructions provided by their own organisation. The article may also be published in an open-access publication series, in which case the publisher is responsible for the availability of the article.

Business Finland recommends that publishers follow the green or the gold open access model:
- Green open access model involves publishing an article in a traditional, subscription-based scientific journal, and parallel publishing in an electronic repository for open access. In line with the standard practice of international funding providers, Tekes allows a waiting period of no more than six months, with the exception of humanities and social sciences, for which the maximum waiting period is 12 months.
- Golden open access model involves publishing the article directly in an open access publication, in which case the publisher is responsible for the availability of the article, and the article will be freely accessible immediately. Typically the publisher collects an author fee, which may be included in the research project costs, if this takes place during the project. Even in this case, parallel copies of the article should be saved in a repository.

Business Finland does not recommend publishing in publications that use the hybrid model, which involve payment to the same publisher of a subscription fee and a fee for the accessibility of an individual article.

Research material management: data management plan

The beneficiary has an obligation to handle the materials generated through research in a way that enables the achievement of project goals. For the purpose of this obligation, the beneficiary should manage all reference materials related to the project, the research data, information and results generated in the project in an appropriate manner to permit the effective use of the information and results in the future.

The project plan must include a data management plan, which includes

- General description of the data
    - What kinds of data are collected or reused?
    - What file formats will the data be in?

- Documentation and Quality
    - How will the data be documented?
    - How will the consistency and quality of data be controlled and documented?

- Storage and Backup
    - How will the data be stored and backed up?
    - How will you control access to keep the data secure?

- Ethics and Legal Compliance
    - How will ethical issues be managed?
    - How will ownership, copyright and Intellectual Property Right (IPR) issues be managed?

- Data Sharing and Long-Term Preservation
    - How, when, where and to whom will the data be made available?
    - How and where will the data with long-term value be made available?
    - Have you estimated costs in time and effort to prepare the data for preservation and sharing?

Frequently asked questions, Q&A

How do I know which repository I should save my articles in?

Most universities instruct researchers to send their articles to their own library, which will arrange publication. The first thing to do is to contact the library of your own research organisation and ask for further instructions. This constitutes parallel publishing, which is one form of open-access publishing. In addition to parallel publishing, researchers usually publish their articles in a journal considered appropriate in their field of science. Waiting periods apply when the publisher has specific limitations.

Will Business Finland reimburse the costs of publication?

Costs of publication are eligible costs, if they are incurred during the project. The costs should be included in the cost estimate in the project planning stage.

Am I required to save my article in the repository of my own research organisation, or am I allowed to publish in an open access publication recognised in my field of science? What if my research organisation has no open access repository?

Business Finland has no opinion as to whether each organisation's own repository should be used; researchers are free to use whichever repository they consider best in accordance with the instructions and guidelines provided by their organisation. In other words, researchers may publish their works in repositories other than those of their own research organisation if there are internationally recognised if there are internationally recognised open archives available for the discipline in question. In disciplines that have recognised international electronic archive and distribution server for research articles (such as arXiv), researchers may use these at their discretion.

Not all organisations have their own service; in this case, researchers are free to use international open-access repositories. There are currently dozens of open-access repositories in Finland and many more worldwide.

I want to publish in a specific publication that is the most significant one in my field of science, but the waiting period is longer than that specified in the recommendations of Business Finland (and the Academy of Finland).

In line with the standard practice of international funding providers, Business Finland allows a waiting period of no more than six months, with the exception of humanities and social sciences, for which the maximum waiting period is 12 months. The majority of publishers allows open parallel publishing. There may be some special conditions, specifically regarding the waiting period, but in general publishers rarely have any objections.

Is open science one of the funding criteria for Business Finland? What if the nature of my research data prevents publishing?

Open-access scientific publishing is not a funding criterion. More details about the funding criteria are available at https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/research-organizations/in-brief/

Please note also that the requirement for open publishing of research results currently only applies to scientific publications produced during the project, not the research material. However, we encourage transparency in the research process and therefore request the inclusion of a data management plan in the project plan.

We will recommend providing access to research material as applicable, but this does not necessarily apply to all research material; the legal framework and agreements will always be observed, and access is to be provided as applicable and in line with a controlled strategy. The recommendation for open access will never be applicable to all materials, nor is this our objective.

For further information, please contact: General terms and conditions for public research funding https://www.businessfinland.fi/globalassets/finnish-customers/01-funding/08-guidelines--terms/funding-terms/en__julkisen_tutkimuksen_rahoituksen_yleiset_ehdot.pdf point 13.1 Rights to project results and publicity of results

For more information on open science

- Open science glossary: http://openscience.fi/
- Tutkimuksen avoimuudella yllättäviä löytöjä ja luovaa oivaltamista: Avoimen tieteen ja tutkimuksen tiekartta 2014-2017, Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriön julkaisuja 2014:20 (in Finnish only)
- Finnish Social Science Data Archive FSD http://www.fsd.uta.fi/en/
- Data Management Guidelines http://www.fsd.uta.fi/aineistonhallinta/en/index.html
- Example of electronic tool for Data Management Plan https://www.dmptuuli.fi/

Business Finland updated its open science recommendation on 2 February 2018.