

What does “Open Access” mean?

Open Access refers to the free, public access to academic results via the internet – free from financial, legal and technical barriers except those relating to the internet itself. Publications, research results and other forms of academic information can thus be freely accessed, cited, distributed and used for any other lawful purpose by everyone.

What are the benefits of Open Access?

Visibility - Transparency - Responsibility

Ever more researchers choose to publish their research results on the basis of Open Access. Open Access benefits the researchers themselves, the sphere of research, and society as a whole:

- Greater visibility and impact for research results and their authors – without delay
- Exploitation of the potential of research results by means of innovative evaluation methods such as text and data mining
- Immediate traceability and reproducibility of the results of publicly funded research
- Avoidance of redundant research activities
- Access for those stakeholders and interested parties outside of academia (policy-makers, practitioners, individuals in the commercial sector)

About the Leibniz Association

The Leibniz Association connects 91 independent research institutions that range in focus from the natural, engineering and environmental sciences via economics, spatial and social sciences to the humanities. Leibniz Institutes address issues of social, economic and ecological relevance. They conduct knowledge-driven and applied basic research, maintain scientific infrastructure and provide research-based services.

The Leibniz Association identifies focus areas for knowledge transfer to policy-makers, academia, business and the public. Leibniz institutions collaborate intensively with universities – in the form of “Leibniz ScienceCampi” (thematic partnerships between university and non-university research institutes), for example – as well as with industry and other partners at home and abroad.

They are subject to an independent evaluation procedure that is unparalleled in its transparency. Due to the importance of the institutions for the country as a whole, they are funded jointly by the Federation and the Länder, employing some 18,700 individuals, including 9,500 researchers. The entire budget of all the institutes is approximately 1.8 billion Euros.

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Open Access at the Leibniz Association



Photo: pixabay; last update: August 2017

LeibnizOpen

- Centralised access to the Leibniz Association's open-access publications since 2011
- Around 40,000 publications from 80 institutes
- Covers the Leibniz Association's entire range of fields and all types of publication

www.leibnizopen.de



“The Leibniz Association is a driving force in the development and implementation of a national open-access strategy, and will further expand Open Access to its institutes’ research results. In order to make academic communication more transparent and efficient, the Leibniz Association will do its part in making ‘Open Access’ into a standard practice.”

Declaration of the Leibniz Association on the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation 2016 - 2020

What is the Leibniz Association’s stance on Open Access?

The Leibniz Association promotes Open Access as one of its strategic objectives. The key foundations to the Leibniz Association’s commitment in this regard are the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities” (“Berliner Erklärung über offenen Zugang zu wissenschaftlichem Wissen”) – to which it was one of the first signatories – and its own “Open Access Policy 2016-2020”.

The Leibniz Association has developed numerous tools and structures in order to bring the Open Access concept to life in an academically appropriate way, both within its individual institutes and across the organisation as a whole. The institutes themselves implement numerous activities that are tailored to their research profile and publication

culture. The objective here is always to make it easier for the institute’s academics to publish their research results under Open Access conditions.

Certain Leibniz Institutes operate journal platforms and repositories for publications and research data, thereby providing Open Access infrastructures to the academic community as a whole. A growing number of Leibniz Institutes have put Open Access policies in place to give their activities a strategic framework.

Together with other academic organisations, the Leibniz Association is working at an academic policy level to provide easy, reliable and permanent access to, and usability of, publications and research data.

What is being done within the Leibniz Association in terms of Open Access?

- Open Access is strategically embedded within the Leibniz Association thanks to guidelines and structures:
 - “Open Access Policy of the Leibniz Association 2016-2020”
 - “Open Access” working group as the key player since 2005
 - Open Access guidelines for publications resulting from the Leibniz Association’s internal funding programmes “Leibniz Competition” and “Strategic Networks”

- The following tools and offerings bring Open Access to life within the Leibniz Institutes:
 - LeibnizOpen (see box)
 - Sample template of an institutional Open Access policy for Leibniz Institutes
 - Publication funds to support academics in publishing in Open Access journals
 - Syndicate agreements with publishers over Open Access publication fees
 - The head office connects, supports, informs and advises the Leibniz Institutes
- The Leibniz Institutes support their academics and communities with the following activities:
 - Adapting to publishers’ Open Access business models (e.g. through publication funds)
 - Advising and informing researchers (e.g. on copyright issues, research sponsors’ Open Access clauses, etc.)
 - Issuing Open Access publication media (journals, publication series, journal platforms)
 - Operating, maintaining and interlinking Open Access repositories
 - Infrastructures for open data (research data centres, repositories)
- Networking nationally and internationally as well as co-authoring guidelines and legal framework conditions through membership of academic policy committees.