

Open Access within the Leibniz Association

Together with other major academic institutions, the Leibniz Association is an early co-signatory (2003) of the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities” (“Berliner Erklärung über offenen Zugang zu wissenschaftlichem Wissen”), and has taken on the obligation to actively support and spur on the principle of Open Access. In this spirit, the general meeting of the Leibniz Association has adopted an „Open Access Policy of Leibniz Association 2016 – 2020“. Its aim – the free exchange and optimal visibility of reviewed research results from Leibniz Institutes – is put into practice with LeibnizOpen.

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.



LeibnizOpen

The Leibniz Association's
Open Access Portal

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What is LeibnizOpen?

LeibnizOpen is the central Open Access portal for all Leibniz Institutes, and serves to provide optimal visibility for their research publications – across all academic disciplines.

The aim of LeibnizOpen is to make available as many publications as possible openly and freely online (Open Access) in full-text format. This applies for the entire spectrum of academic publications, such as essays from journals and collected volumes, books, research reports, working papers, university publications and conference papers.

LeibnizOpen is made possible thanks to the active support of the Leibniz Institutes and their academic staff: all publications which have been authorised for this purpose by the Leibniz Institutes can be made available within LeibnizOpen.



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The advantages of LeibnizOpen for Academia

LeibnizOpen takes the research output of the Leibniz Institutes and makes it optimally visible, researchable and permanently available.

Improved research options and increased visibility

Recent studies show that document servers (repositories) are better storage locations for full texts than websites of institutes or publishing companies. Thanks to high-quality indexing using meta-data, they can be incorporated into subject portals and easily be found by search engines. This not least consolidates the online presence of the Leibniz Institutes and their academic staff.

Permanent archiving, citability and legal certainty

LeibnizOpen's secure servers provide for permanent archiving of publications. Each document receives a so-called persistent identifier, ensuring their permanent citability. In addition, full texts saved in LeibnizOpen can easily be distributed and linked with other data. By using open licenses, these possible usages are legally defensible while authors are retaining copyright for their work.

„The Leibniz Association pursues academic research within the public sphere, on behalf of the public sphere. This is why its research results should of course be openly accessible. The majority of our institutes are already implementing an Open Access policy, thereby opening up their research to be found, discussed and applied. LeibnizOpen reflects this commitment.“

Matthias Kleiner
President of the Leibniz Association

How does LeibnizOpen work?

Who is behind it?
How can institutes participate?

An informational advantage through networking

LeibnizOpen is based on a network of subject-specific Open Access repositories which are operated by institutes of the Leibniz Association along with further partners focusing on information infrastructure: the German Institute for International Educational Research (DIPF); FIZ Karlsruhe – Leibniz Institute for Information Infrastructure; GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences; the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB); ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences; ZBW – German National Library of Economics – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, and the Leibniz Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID) in collaboration with the Saarland University and State Library (SULB). LeibnizOpen brings together the publication references from these repositories.

Every Leibniz Institute has three options for participating in LeibnizOpen:

- To use one of the subject-specific repositories to provide access to its publications in LeibnizOpen,
- To incorporate its own repository, or
- To directly import its publications into LeibnizOpen.

With these methods, LeibnizOpen is supported by around 80 Leibniz Institutes in total. Alongside the technical means, Leibniz Institutes participating in LeibnizOpen also receive advice and support from the institutions operating LeibnizOpen.