

Guidelines on Open Access within the Leibniz Association

(agreed by the General Assembly of the Leibniz Association on 23 November 2007)

The Leibniz Association has set itself the goal of promoting more strongly the free exchange of quality-assured and peer-reviewed research results in digitalised form (Open Access).

Rapid and direct access to this information – at any time, in any place, at no cost to the user and without barriers – increases research efficiency, supports international and interdisciplinary cooperation, increases the visibility and citation frequency of publications and maximises the value of publicly-funded research.

By signing the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities¹ the Leibniz Association has committed itself to creating the framework conditions necessary to achieve this. This is being carried out in coordination with the arrangements of many renowned scientific organisations, the German Research Foundation (DFG) and with international initiatives such as UNESCO.

In order to promote Open Access in the Leibniz Association, its members have agreed the following guidelines which shall apply to all.

- Results of research from the Leibniz Association should be published in digitalised form if at all possible and should be freely accessible. The form, place and method of publication are left to the scientists involved. It is recommended that research results should be published in accordance with the Open Access model.
- The authors and/or their institutes should most certainly secure their usage rights so as to ensure that, in addition to any commercial use by publishing houses, other researchers have free access to their results. This is done by making a digital copy of the results available. To this end, the Leibniz Association has made some standard wording available which can be used by all.
- The authors facilitate free access to their research results by storing them in digital form in an electronic archive maintained by an institute that is freely accessible via the internet. This should be done as soon as possible after publication, preferably on a document server within the Leibniz Association or on a central, departmental document server.
- Access to the research results from the Leibniz Association published in Open Access is through the freely-accessible electronic archives within the Leibniz Association, which are networked and adhere to common standards for e.g. access, documentation of their content and long-term availability.
- Implementation and development of the Open Access guidelines of the Leibniz Association will be aligned to the national and international activities of the scientific organisations and communities.

The Leibniz Association will develop some recommendations on how to implement the guidelines.

¹ <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>