

Open Access Policy of the Museum für Naturkunde Leibniz Institute for Evolution and Biodiversity Science 2019 - 2021

Background

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin is evolving into an open natural science museum of the 21st century. It is an excellent research museum and an innovative communications centre that addresses the challenges presented by the change taking place in science and actively participates in shaping it. In line with the objective of an open museum, the dissemination of scientific publications in open access is being vigorously pursued. Therefore, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, as a member of the Leibniz Association, is committed to open access and thus follows the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"¹ and the "Open Access Policy of the Leibniz Association 2016-2020"².

Open access stands for unlimited and free access to quality-tested scientific information on the Internet. By eliminating technical, financial and legal barriers, open access helps accelerate scientific innovation processes and improve the visibility of research results. This supports scientists in their research and publication processes and maximizes the benefits of publicly funded research.

Recommendations and commitments

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin expects its scientists to publish their research results in accordance with the two strategies: gold open access and green open access, provided the selected publication medium has a peer review process or another quality assurance standard or mechanism that is recognized by the relevant scientific discipline.

The Museum für Naturkunde supports its scientists by offering institutional measures in the implementation of the two open access strategies. Scientists remain free to choose the publication medium.

Research results are deemed to be all findings of the scientific activity. Thus, research data is also considered a valuable result of research. A separate guideline applies to how research data at the Museum für Naturkunde should be handled and made available.

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin recognizes its scientists' efforts towards open access as an expression of good scientific practice and accordingly takes this into account in the research evaluation.

¹Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities http://openaccess.mpg.de/3515/Berliner_Erklaerung

²Open Access Policy of the Leibniz Association 2016-2020 http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Infrastruktur/Leibniz-Open-Access-Policy.pdf

Scientists are expected to make their research results open access to the greatest extent possible. This can be done via direct publication in an open access publication medium and—within the limits of what is legally possible—by making the publications available via a document server (repositories) in parallel or as soon as possible subsequently. This allows for the comprehensive external presentation of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin's scientific performance.

For direct open access publications, the museum recommends publishing under a free license (e.g. Creative Commons Attribution³) in an original open access publication medium.

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin's own publications should also be published via one of the two open access strategies and should be provided under a free license (preferably the Creative Commons license CC BY).

In addition, the Museum für Naturkunde encourages its scientists to consider the open access principles when publishing or reviewing scientific publications and, if applicable, to use their function to influence expert associations and publishers.

As a rule, the museum does not support the "ransoming" of individual contributions that have been published in subscription journals or anthologies (so-called "hybrid open access") and does not provide any of its own budget for this purpose.

In the event of a parallel or subsequent open access publication, the museum's scientists are encouraged not to grant the publishers exclusive usage rights to publications upon conclusion of contract but, as far as possible, to permanently secure their own exploitation rights and to transfer a simple right of use to the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin for the institutional repository and/or for the transfer to an expert repository. Only in doing so can free access be guaranteed in addition to any commercial use by publishers.

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin expects its scientists to raise third-party funding for open access publications when applying for projects.

³<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Implementation at the institutional level:

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin promotes open access by:

- identifying opportunities to make its scientists' publications, for which free availability is legally permissible, available in open access and to document these. The documentation and evidence system for the text publications will be the publication database for this.
- building and operating an institutional repository, among other things, to secure and archive publications.
- transferring its scientists' freely available publications to LeibnizOpen as soon as the corresponding processes and workflows have been established.
- assuming the publication fees, within budgetary constraints. Funding will be supported by transparent guidelines, which have yet to be developed accordingly, and by the establishment of a central and institutional (OA) publication fund.
- publishing the open access publication media "Fossil Record", "Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift" and "Zoosystematics and Evolution".
- making advisory services available to scientists on the selection of publication media (online, print, closed access, open access, hybrid journals), their secondary publishing rights and open access licensing.

For this purpose, the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin is establishing the position of an advisory centre for scientific publishing.

The Museum für Naturkunde will take care to review the implementation of the Open Access Policy, consider the identified needs for the further development of the Open Access Policy, and initiate further measures on the institutional side accordingly.

Berlin,

Berlin,

Prof. Johannes Vogel, Ph.D.
Director General

Stephan Junker
Managing Director

Glossary

Open access strategies

Gold open access and green open access are the two open access strategies and include the following scope of definition:

- **Gold open access** comprises the primary publications of a scientific publication in an open access medium.
- **Green open access** comprises the parallel or secondary publication of a scientific publication on institutional or expert repositories or on the private or professional website.

Research data is data that arises during the research process and/or is its result.⁴

Publication:

A scientific publication is a manifest and published product that results from the research work of one or more persons. A publication must correspond to a self-contained intellectual achievement; purely formal compilations should not be considered as scientific publications. Scientific publications are mostly aimed at research colleagues; but consideration should also be given to formats in which scientific results are communicated to a broader public. Publications should be permanently available. Citable, published research data is also considered a publication.⁵

Peer review process/quality standards:

Includes the content-related review of publications, by an editorial committee or on behalf of an editor by external expert colleagues.⁶

⁴Shortened definition. See [Kindling, Maxi; Schirmbacher, Peter; Simukovic, Elena \(2013\) Forschungsdatenmanagement an Hochschulen: das Beispiel der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. LIBREAS. Library Ideas 23 \(2013\). urn:nbn:de:kobv:11-100212700](#) and <http://www.forschungsdaten.org/index.php/Forschungsdaten>

⁵Definition "publication" from the research core data set: https://www.kerndatensatz-forschung.de/version1/Spezifikationstabelle_KDSF_v1.html; ID: Pu4a

⁶Derived from the definition from the research core data set on the topic; peer reviewed: https://www.kerndatensatz-forschung.de/version1/Spezifikationstabelle_KDSF_v1.html; ID: Pu104