



## Guidelines on Open Access at TU Braunschweig

*(passed by TU Braunschweig's Senate on March 18, 2015)*

### Introduction

TU Braunschweig encourages the free exchange of research findings (open access). It does not dictate where its researchers should publish their works, but it does recommend that they submit their publications to open access journals and on open access platforms or make them available in archives that are freely accessible (repositories).

Unimpeded access to this information strengthens the visibility of academic research, increases the frequency of publications being cited, and supports international and interdisciplinary cooperation.

In signing the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities,” TU Braunschweig committed to creating conditions that encourage open access publication.

### Background

The discussion on open access to academic publications has been gaining in prominence around the world since the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities”,<sup>1</sup> published in 2003. Open access publication media have been established that ensure the quality of research findings using peer-review processes and then make these findings available worldwide for free and without restrictions. In some disciplines, open access journals now enjoy a good academic reputation and have developed into leading media in these subjects.

Open access is also now an established part of EU research funding: as part of HORIZON 2020,<sup>2</sup> researchers are required to make their publications freely accessible.

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<sup>1</sup><https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

<sup>2</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>

This is a courtesy translation. If there are any differences in the wording, meaning, or interpretation of the German and English versions, the German version shall prevail.



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## Implementation

Researchers have the possibility to publish their articles in open access journals or their monographs and edited volumes on open access platforms (golden road), or they can make their publications available in freely accessible archives called repositories (green road).

With the open access golden road, that is, publication in an open access journal or an open access platform, it is recommended that researchers use the Creative Commons License (CC-BY) that ensures the author retains all rights to the publication.

The open access green road, that is, secondary publication of a work that has already been printed by a publisher, was made easier by an amendment to the German Copyright Act (Urheberrechtsgesetz, §31(4)). Under certain conditions, this gives authors an unconditional right to publish their work a second time. The right cannot be signed away even in a publisher's contract. Researchers have various possibilities for implementing the green road:

- Publication on TU Braunschweig's publication server (Digital Library Braunschweig) or
- Publication in discipline-specific repositories.

The University Library advises and supports researchers on topics related to open access publishing, e.g. in looking for open access publication media, on copyright questions, for inquiries about article processing charges (APC) and with administrative processes.

## Additional information and contact:

- Website: <https://www.tu-braunschweig.de/forschung/daten/openaccess/index.html>
- Website (University Library): [https://ub.tu-braunschweig.de/publizieren\\_openaccess/open\\_access/englisch/index\\_en.php](https://ub.tu-braunschweig.de/publizieren_openaccess/open_access/englisch/index_en.php)
- Open Access Officer at TU Braunschweig: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Peter Hecker
- University Library's Open Access Coordinator: Dipl.-Ing. Carsten Elsner  
Tel.: 5067 / 5052  
Email: [openaccess@tu-braunschweig.de](mailto:openaccess@tu-braunschweig.de)
- EU Research Service (for questions on open access relating to HORIZON 2020)