

## QUT Library Collection Development Manual

### 3. Practices

#### 3.1.5. Open Access

##### Identification block

<b>QUT Library Collection Development Manual</b>	
<b>3.1.5 Open Access</b>	
Contact Officer	Associate Director, Library Services (Information Resources and Research Support Services)
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##### Policy statement

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#### 3.1.5. Open Access

##### 1. Purpose and scope

Publishing is an important part of the research process in that it disseminates research findings, helps to speed the research cycle and develops the body of knowledge. The Australian Commonwealth Government has introduced research assessment exercises including the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) and the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) which measure the quantity and quality of research outputs respectively, The Government has also introduced the Accessibility Framework as a driver for the development of institutional repositories. Research granting agencies including the Australian Research Council (ARC) and soon also the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), are mandating that research projects funded by the agency, disseminate research outputs via open access publishing within six months of publication. Publishing is also important to researchers who need to get their work and themselves widely known, and want to achieve recognition, prestige and status.

The open access movement<sup>1</sup> promotes the free and open availability of information by removing the cost barrier to access at least one version of published information resources. It allows for the peer review process to be maintained for the purpose of quality assurance. It promotes as a solution, the possible separation of the peer

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review process, from other traditional publishing processes and services including journal presentation.

There are two main accepted methods of providing open access:

- a) The *green road* by which authors place a version of their scholarly output on open access, and the publisher making the published version available to consumers (libraries, business, individuals) for a subscription / purchase price
- b) The *gold road* by which the author pays a publication fee, and then the scholarly output is available to consumers for free.

The University is a net purchaser of academic information resources and the Library is subject to the high prices and high level of inflation demanded by publishers in what is a dysfunctional and anti-competitive poly-monopolistic information marketplace. The traditional publishing model, by which universities pay for the costs of research, and then give their researchers' publications away for free, to be peer reviewed and published in high-cost journals which are then bought by the University Library, has likely reached its peak in development. Price rises of the past decades are unsustainable. The high cost of journals in particular is limiting access to scholarly information to those with privileged affiliation to the wealthier institutions with access to scholarly information.

The research cycle is being constrained by inequitable and restricted access to scholarly information and research as a result of the paid subscription model. Not all researchers are members of libraries with subscriptions to the published research literature they need, and not all libraries can afford subscriptions to a wide variety of published resources. Citation counts for scholarly outputs are not reaching their potential because other researchers do not have access to all research outputs. Institutions are not receiving the full benefits of their research efforts in terms of impact, ranking and prestige.

## **2. Benefits of Open Access**

QUT is an active participant of the open access movement for the many benefits it brings, including:

- Publically funded research outputs and other scholarly information is more readily available
- Publically funded research outputs and other scholarly information is available for free
- Scholarly information may be available earlier
- The citation count of research outputs is increased
- The research cycle is accelerated
- The research reputation of the institution is promoted
- Having the choice to favour openly accessible resources instead of publisher licensed version of the same content (journal databases, open textbooks)
- Publishers are subject to some competition and pricing pressure from similar versions of research outputs available for free on open access

## **3. QUT Library as an Active Supporter of Open Access**

QUT is an active supporter of open access by both the green road and gold road methods.

QUT Library actively supports the green road by:

- Its policy [MOPP F/1.3 QUT ePrints repository for research outputs](#), which states QUT authors must place the author's accepted manuscript version of refereed research articles and conference papers in the repository; and may

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place author submitted manuscripts, books and book chapters, un-refereed literature, creative works with a research component, and research datasets into the repository

- Actively encouraging authors to self-deposit their accepted manuscript versions of peer reviewed research outputs into QUT ePrints
- Making QUT ePrints available to the world, and indexed by Google, Oaister, Scientific Commons, the National Library of Australia's discovery service and other online services
- Managing and hosting the [OAKList Database](#) which provides information about publishing agreements and publishers' open access policies and which is designed to support the establishment and populated of open access repositories.

QUT Library actively supports the gold road by:

- Managing the subscriptions for, and paying author publication fees for true gold road open access publishers such as:
  - BioMed Central
  - Public Library of Science
  - Hindawi Press
- Assisting academics with the publishing process

QUT Library will not support or pay author publication fees to commercial publishers that are double or triple dipping by simultaneously marketing their content using multiple business models including traditional subscriptions, gold road open access, and on-selling to aggregators.

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## Modification history

Date	Sections	Source	Details
6 July 2009	All	ADIRRS	Initial draft
21 July 2009	All	ADIRRS, DLS	Incorporating feedback from Information Resources Committee
27 October 2009	All	Library Leadership Team	Approved

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## Footnotes

<sup>i</sup> Hanard, S., *Open Access*, available at URL: <http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/>