



Open Access Policy of the Swiss Ornithological Institute

Adopted by the institute board on 14.05.2020.

Introduction

The Swiss Ornithological Institute is a private non-profit foundation supported by a wide public. The politically independent institute is dedicated to the study and conservation of wild birds. The institute considers it a priority to disseminate its knowledge and research outputs nationally and internationally.

Open Access to published scientific results is based on the recognition of knowledge as a common good and of the social and economic benefits to be derived from it. The increased visibility of scientific outputs resulting from Open Access leads to an increase in the impact of publications.

The Swiss Ornithological Institute is committed to providing Open Access to all its published scientific work. Furthermore, the Swiss Ornithological Institute follows the objectives established by the Swiss National Strategy on Open Access and other major funders, such as the Swiss National Science Foundation, to make all published and publicly funded scientific work openly accessible.

This Open Access policy aims at providing free online access to the Swiss Ornithological Institute's research outputs by guiding its members through the publication process. The Open Access policy affects neither the free choice of a publication medium nor freedom of research. Rather, it creates new opportunities for communication in the sciences.

Definitions

- a. A **publication** is defined as any scientific work by members of the Swiss Ornithological Institute that has been published or is under publication. Scientific work includes all scientific articles, books, conference proceedings and associated research data. Patentable discoveries and classified research are excluded from this definition.
- b. The **vogelwarte.ch Open Repository and Archive** is operated by the Swiss Ornithological Institute according to international standards. It contains digital content from various disciplines and provides advanced tools for search, navigation and Open Access to its digital collections. It complies with the definition of an appropriate repository.
- c. An **appropriate repository** is one that is compliant with the Berlin Declaration and is non-commercial. It offers Open Access to scientific results, enables citations through permanent identifiers (DOI or others), provides qualitative metadata (including acknowledgement of research funding) based on accepted guidelines and standards and is listed in OpenDOAR.

- d. Several Open Access models exist. These are the most common:
 The **green OA road** designates the secondary publication of a previously published work in an institutional or subject-based Open Access repository.
 The **gold OA road** means that a work is first published in an OA journal or as an OA book or in another OA format.
 A **hybrid OA** publication appears in a subscription-based journal that allows unrestricted access to certain articles after payment of an additional fee.
- e. A **digital copy** is the electronic version of the publication in its final stage. For peer-reviewed articles, different versions are defined:
Author's Accepted Manuscript (AAM)/Post-print: the version of the manuscript accepted by the journal/publisher after peer-review and revisions, prior to copy-editing and production.
Version of Records (VoR) or journal/publisher version: the final version edited by the journal.
- f. An **embargo** is the period during which access to a publication deposited in a repository is blocked (i.e. the publication is not openly available).
- g. **Metadata** are the descriptors used for describing, tracing, using and managing the deposited items (e.g. title, authors, DOI, institutional affiliations, name of the journal that accepted the publication).

Policy from 14.05.2020

1. Members of the Swiss Ornithological Institute are expected to make their publications available in Open Access (OA). All publicly funded scientific publications must be published in OA following one of the OA roads stated above.
2. Members of the Swiss Ornithological Institute are expected to deposit a digital copy of the full text (if possible AAM or VoR) along with the related metadata in the institutional repository. The authors are held responsible for the timely deposit of their publications in the repository. The deposited version must comply with the publisher's policy or the terms of the copyright agreement signed by the authors. Depositing publications in commercial repositories, on social media platforms (e.g. ResearchGate, Academia, etc.) or on the member's personal webpage is not compliant with this policy.
3. The Swiss Ornithological Institute expects the full text of all publications by its members to be made openly available upon deposit or after an embargo period, thus following the green Open Access road, in accordance with the publisher's policy or the terms of the copyright agreement signed by the authors.
4. The Swiss Ornithological Institute encourages and supports its members to publish in fully Open Access journals or with Open Access publishers, following the gold Open Access road.
5. The Swiss Ornithological Institute may consider publications following the hybrid Open Access road, provided they are part of offsetting-agreements leading to OA transformation. Otherwise, the hybrid road should be avoided due to higher costs

(double dipping). The least restrictive licence must be chosen among the licences proposed by the publisher.

6. The Swiss Ornithological Institute bears the financial costs of Open Access publications, provided these costs are not at least partially covered by third-party contributions (e.g. SNSF, FOEN, etc.).
7. The Swiss Ornithological Institute strongly encourages its members to retain all or a maximum of rights. This can be negotiated with the publisher by using an addendum to the publishing contract¹.
8. For the purpose of institutional evaluation of the research output of the institution and its members, the annual report will list the number of publications made available in the repository as well as the percentage of works published in OA.

¹ <https://sparcopen.org/our-work/author-rights/brochure-html/>