Maynooth University Policy on Open Access to Research

Open Access allows publications to be freely accessed worldwide via the internet. This is done through depositing the publication in an institutional or subject repository.

The potential readership, impact and citation of material on Open Access material is far greater than that for publications where the full text is based on purchase or subscription. [2] In addition, Open Access repositories are networked and designed in such a way as to maximise visibility of their content to web search engines. [3]

Open Access is an internationally recognised approach to the dissemination of research publications, that complements and extends the established practices and rigorous selection of publication in subscription-based peer reviewed journals. A useful briefing document on Open Access has been published by the UK's Joint Information Systems Committee.[1]

Maynooth University (MU) believes that providing free online access to the University's research and scholarly output will maximise the visibility and dissemination of our research. In keeping with this belief the MU Open Access Policy requires that all research and scholarly publications, which arise in whole or in part from research carried out at the University, and subject to the copyright and archiving policies of the publisher, be made available at the earliest possible date through the Maynooth University Open Access Repository - ePrints.

Background to OA at Maynooth University

Maynooth University was the first University in Ireland to establish an Open Access Repository, 'ePrints', in 2003. Since 2008 Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)., the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the European Research Council (ERC) have mandated that publications that result from research they have funded be made available in an Open Access Repository. The European Commission (EC) piloted a scheme for Open Access in certain areas of the Seventh Framework Programme (EU Research Funding 2007-2013), The European Commission's Horizon 2020 Innovation Union policy document (2010)[4] published by the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science states that the Commission will promote open access to the results of publicly funded research, and will aim to make open access to publications the general principle for projects funded by the EU research Framework Programmes. **All projects receiving Horizon 2020 [5] funding are required to make sure that any peer-reviewed journal article they publish is openly accessible and free of charge (article 29.2. Model Grant Agreement) [6.]**

The Maynooth University policy is based on the mandates published in 2008 and its 2013 update [7] by the Higher Education Authority (HEA), which in turn, is based on recognised international best practice, such as the recommendations of the European Research Advisory Board (EURAB) Policy in relation to scientific publication. It is also in keeping with the combined OECD Ministers' Declaration committing the OECD to work towards commonly agreed Principles and Guidelines on Access to Research Data from Public Funding.

The Maynooth University policy will take effect from 06 November 2017and will be reviewed no later than May 2022.

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1 http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/bpopenaccessv3.pd
2 http://eprints.ecs.soton.ac.uk/18516/2/Citation_advantage_paper.pdf
3 http://www.istl.org/10-winter/article2.html
4 http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/innovation-union-communication_en.pdf
5 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf
6 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/mga/gga/h2020-mga-gga-multi_en.pdf
7 http://www.hea.ie/node/990

Open Access at National level

The Irish Government has identified growth in research as critical to Ireland's future as a knowledge-based economy. Raising the profile of research is a key strategy in the Irish Universities' strategic plans; the ability to showcase research publications and identify institutional research strengths is extremely important in attracting new funding, industry partnership and high quality researchers.

As outlined in the National Principles for Open Access Policy Statement Open Access adds value to research, to the economy and to society and as such, promotes a legacy of meaningful research. This supports best practice; ensuring outputs from publicly funded research are "publicly available to researchers, but also to potential users in education, business, charitable and public sectors, and to the general public." (Ibid 7)

Initially the seven Irish Universities and DIT provided an open access repository, and a consortium of the Universities in 2010 launched 'RIAN' http://rian.ie, a national open access repository system, which connects the repositories of each participating institution for maximum public accessibility and visibility of Irish research. This has been expanded to include the Repositories of the Institutes of Technology, Teagasc, the HSE, Dept. of the Marine and the RCSI.

The Maynooth University policy is based on the following principles:

1. The policy confirms the freedom of researchers to publish first wherever they feel is the most appropriate regardless of the publisher's policy on Open Access. However, use of publishers who support Open Access is encouraged. A comprehensive list of publisher's policies is available at http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo and of funders including National funders at http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php

2. The effect of the policy will be to increase the visibility of, and improve access to, the research carried out at Maynooth University, where such research is intended to be published or has been published by the researcher(s) concerned.

3. The MU Open Access Repository should make research output available immediately, or as soon as is practicable but normally not later than six months after publication.

4. The repository will make provision for long-term preservation of, and free public access to, all research findings.

How Open Access works at Maynooth University:

'ePrints', the Maynooth University Open Access Repository is a storage and retrieval system where research outputs and papers are stored and made available for full, open and free access by the research community and the general public.

ePrints and Maynooth University Research Information System (RIS):

Publications can be deposited into ePrints by two possible routes:

1. **Via RIS**: Maynooth University academic staff are requested to add publication data to their profiles in the Research Information System (RIS) https://ris.maynoothuniversity.ie/live/w_rms_security.login.
2. In an effort to facilitate the Open Access policy and reduce duplication of effort, any publications added to the RIS can be included in ePrints. This also facilitates compliance of National and European funder requirements to deposit research outputs in Open Access repositories. See http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php for more information.
3. **Direct deposit into ePrint**: http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/ where, once registered, the author can deposit bibliographic data, pre-prints/post-print or publisher's version

Implementation steps for Maynooth University researchers

1. All researchers lodge their publications resulting from research carried out at Maynooth University, into 'ePrints' the Maynooth University Open Access Repository, as soon as is practical after publication, and to be made openly accessible within six calendar months at the latest, subject to copyright agreement which will be monitored by Maynooth University Library staff.
2. Initially, authors deposit post-prints (or publisher's version if permitted) plus bibliographic data of articles accepted for publication in peer- and non-peer-reviewed journals and international conference proceedings.
3. Deposit should normally be made upon acceptance by the journal or conference.
4. Books, book chapters and monographs represent a somewhat more complicated and variable case to journal articles, but the following general approach applies. When a book goes out of print or four years following publication, whichever is sooner, and the publisher does not foresee a further print run or availability online for the work within a six-month period, then authors should make the work available online in an open and accessible way.

Increasing the exposure of Irish research publications

1. Benefits to authors depositing published material into ePrints include:
   - Broadening worldwide access to research material and information
   - Increasing citations and impact
   - Providing a method of preserving material
   - Making material available to internet search engines
   - Helping to prevent duplication of research
   - Promoting replicability of research findings
   - Raising profile of Maynooth University research and researchers both nationally and internationally
   - Supporting research-enabled teaching and learning and the generation of Open Educational Resources (OER)
   - Compliance of National and European funder requirements to deposit research outputs in Open Access archives

2. Benefits to Maynooth University include:
   - Showcasing Maynooth University research publications
   - Raising the profile of Maynooth University research internationally through broader access and citations
   - Providing a space for individuals, research groups, schools and department to display research work
   - Increasing potential for collaboration and synergies between Irish and international researchers

3. Benefits to Society and Community include: Access to knowledge
   - Access publically funded research transparency of publically funded research
   - More efficient dissemination of research outputs
   - Value for money invested in research
   - Advancement of Science and Society

Contact:

Research Development Office:

Research Support Officer: Louise Bolger: Louise.Bolger@nuim.ie

Library:

Institutional Repository Manager: Suzanne Redmond Maloco s.redmondmaloco@nuim.ie

Research Support Librarian: Ciarán Quinn ciaran.quinn@nuim.ie