Maynooth University Policy on Open Access to Research

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]

Making scholarly publications available via Open Access allows them to be freely accessed by anyone worldwide using an internet connection. The potential readership, impact and citations of Open Access material are far greater than that for publications where the full text is restricted to subscribers only[2]. In addition, Open Access repositories are designed specifically to expose the details of their contents to web search engines[3].

Maynooth University believes that providing free online access to the University's research and scholarly publications is the best way of maximising the dissemination of our published research, and ensuring that the research and scholarship performed at Maynooth University can be accessed, read and used by the whole international community. In 2003, through the initiative of the Library, Maynooth University was the first University in Ireland to establish an Open Access Repository, 'ePrints', in which the store of deposited publications has been steadily growing. Since 2008 it has been the policy of both Science Foundation Ireland and the Higher Education Authority, and also of the European Research Council, that publications that arise under their funding should be made available in an Open Access Repository. The European Commission is currently piloting a requirement for Open Access in certain areas of the Seventh Framework Programme, and the Europe 2020 Innovation Union policy document[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.

Maynooth University policy is that for 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, the publication contents should be made available at the earliest possible date through the Maynooth University Open Access Repository.

This policy is based on the mandate published in 2008 by the Higher Education Authority (HEA) which in turn, is based on recognised international best practice. It is in keeping with 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 1st May 2011, and will be reviewed no later than May 2016.

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[1] http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/bpopenaccessv3.pdf
[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

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.

All seven Irish universities now provide an open access repository and a consortium of the universities in 2010 launched 'RIAN' (http://rian.ie/en), a national open access repository system, which connects the repositories of each participating institution for maximum public accessibility and visibility of Irish research. The RIAN project is funded by the HEA Strategic Innovation Fund.

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 www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.
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 Repository should release the bibliographic data immediately, with access restrictions to full text article to be applied as required. Open access should be available 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, published research findings.

How Open Access works at Maynooth University

'ePrints', the Maynooth University Open Access Repository is a storage and retrieval system where published research findings 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) for inclusion in the annual President's Report. In an effort to facilitate the Open Access policy and reduce duplication of effort, any publications added to the RIS are transferred to the library for inclusion in ePrints.
2. **Direct deposit into ePrint:** http://eprints.maynoothuniversity.ie/ where, once registered, the author can deposit bibliographic data[5], pre-prints/post-print or publisher's version

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[5] ePrints has an import facility for publications with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) such as a PubMed ID

PDF. After copyright clearance the full-text link will be mapped to the author/co-author's profile in the RIS.

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 6 calendar months at the latest, subject to copyright agreement which will be monitored by Maynooth University Library staff[6].
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 material
   - Increasing citations and impact
   - Providing a method of preserving material
   - Making material available to internet search engines
   - Raising profile of Maynooth University research both nationally and internationally

2. Benefits to Maynooth University include
   - Providing a showcase of 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

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[6] Publisher's copyright and archiving policies are considered by library staff upon receipt of the bibliographic data, and a decision is made based on the copyright agreements, as to whether the publication can be deposited into the live ePrints archive and in what form, e.g. pre-print, post-print, publisher's full text.