

Open Access Policy of the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)

Background

Open access means unrestricted and free access to quality-controlled scientific information on the Internet. By removing technical, financial and legal barriers, open access helps to speed up scientific innovation processes and improve the visibility of research results. This supports scientific staff in their research and publication processes and maximises the benefit of publicly subsidised research. The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) as a member of the Leibniz Association is committed to open access. It therefore adheres to the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities”¹ and the “Guidelines on Open Access within the Leibniz Association”².

Recommendations and obligations

The IAMO asks its scientists to publish their research results according to the open access principle. Within the IAMO, this is done where possible directly through publication in open access publication media and – within the scope of what is legally possible – by making the publications accessible in parallel or subsequently as soon as possible through document servers (repositories). For direct open access publication, the institute recommends publication under a free usage licence (currently for instance Creative Commons Attribution³).

For parallel or subsequent open access publication, IAMO scientists are asked to refrain from granting exclusive usage rights to publications in contracts with publishers and, to the extent possible, to secure permanent own exploitation rights and assign simple usage rights to the IAMO for the institutional and/or a technical repository. Only then can open access be guaranteed in addition to possible commercial use by publishers. The IAMO recommends obtaining third-party funds for open access publications when making project applications.

The IAMO also views research data as the valuable result of its research activities. A separate policy is being written for handling research data within the IAMO.

Implementation

The IAMO promotes open access by:

- Providing the publications of its scientists, where making them freely accessible is legally permissible, directly or indirectly to the technical document servers Econstor, AgEcon Search, RePEc, Research Gate and others for open access publication,
- recording the freely available publications of its scientists in LeibnizOpen and endorsing and supporting the ability to research them through technical databases such as ECONIS and Wiso-Net as well as portals such as Econbiz and social networks such as ResearchGate,

¹ Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.
http://openaccess.mpg.de/3515/Berliner_Erklaerung

² Guidelines on Open Access within the Leibniz Association. http://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Infrastruktur/OpenAccess-Leitlinie.pdf

³ <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

- providing its scientists with financing options for publication fees of open access publication media through an Open Access Fund,
- informing and advising its scientists about open access, and assisting them with the clarification of legal matters related to the open access publication of their research results. The IAMO has created the position of an Open Access Officer for this purpose.

Components for the implementation of an open access policy

The Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany has published a brochure “Open-Access-Strategien für wissenschaftliche Einrichtungen. Bausteine und Beispiele” (Open Access Strategies for Scientific Institutions. Components and Examples)⁴ containing detailed information for the implementation of an open access policy.

The following of these components are implemented by the IAMO:

- Advice for scientists in the selection of publication channels (online, print, closed access, open access, hybrid journals)
- Overview and selection of technically relevant open access journals (if applicable also information when dubious offers become known)
- Processing the payment of publication fees
- Documentation and evaluation of paid publication fees
- Maintenance of an open access fund
- Information to scientists regarding their secondary publication rights and open access licencing
- Review of publisher requirements for secondary publication (individual contracts with authors, alliance licences and so on) prior to storage in a repository
- Management of (secondary) publication in a repository
- Documentation of open access and/or secondary publication in publication management
- Review of (third-party) funder requirements for publications and related advice for scientists

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⁴ <http://dx.doi.org/10.2312/allianzoa.005>