

Denmark's National Strategy for Open Access

Open Access is a question of achieving the maximum effect from research.

There are many benefits for Danish companies, Danish research and Danish society in having free accessibility – Open Access – to research. With everyone having increased accessibility to online scientific articles, we will see more effective knowledge-sharing between researchers, research institutions, and companies. Open Access will result in new and improved research opportunities, particularly within interdisciplinary research, and improved access to research-based knowledge for companies and others. And thereby will contribute to the latest knowledge being disseminated quicker and creating innovation and growth in society.

Vision

To create free access for all citizens, researchers and companies to all research articles from Danish research institutions financed by public authorities and/or private foundations.

Researchers, universities and other research institutions, research councils and foundations, libraries, publishing houses and companies all play a crucial role in optimising knowledge sharing and the application of the latest research findings. Now it is a question of ensuring that all will also contribute to the optimal implementation of Open Access for research and innovation in Denmark.

Targets

From 2025 onwards, there should be unimpeded digital access for all to all peer-reviewed scientific articles from Danish research institutions – with a maximum 12-month embargo.

Prerequisites

That Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF), research libraries, and research institutions enter negotiations with scientific publishers well ahead of 2025, working for agreements that allow for the establishment of Open Access to all publications with a maximum 12-month embargo.

That researchers and research institutions regularly and fully utilise the negotiated rights to establish Open Access, so that the target is achieved by 2025 at the latest.

That research institutions, research foundations and the Ministry of Higher Education and Science regularly monitor and stimulate the realisation of this strategy.

Internationally, there are already strong initiatives in progress to ensure the expansion of Open Access. The European Commission, the US, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and institutions such as the National Institutes of Health,

20 June 2018

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Ref. no.
17/062761-35

Max-Planck-Gesellschaft and Wellcome Trust are just a few examples of actors endeavouring to spread Open Access via strategies, policies and targets. Denmark has approved several EU Council conclusions that aim to promote Open Access.

Danish researchers are already well under way in terms of complying with Open Access requirements, especially as a result of Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The programme requires Open Access for all research articles that have received funding from the framework programme.

The strategy's subject matter

The strategy aims to secure Open Access for scientific articles and conference proceedings in journals and proceedings with an ISSN number. Scientific monographs and anthologies, publications on patented discoveries as well as PhD and doctorate dissertations are excluded.

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The fundamental terms for Open Access

It is crucial for research and from a socio-economic perspective, that the aggregate public expenditure for scientific publication does not increase significantly as a result of the implementation of Open Access. Similarly, it is recognised that further implementation of Open Access may not hinder researchers' freedom of publication. Both prerequisites form the basis for Denmark's National Strategy for Open Access.

Open Access in Denmark does not imply that the Government will replace private publishers' valuable contribution to knowledge sharing. Rather, the implementation of Open Access, with assistance from this key part of the publishing chain, will ensure that we succeed in disseminating the highly sought-after and quality-assured knowledge to as many as possible as quickly as possible.

It is therefore crucial that Open Access in Denmark contains continued quality assurance of research findings in the form of journal peer review. This quality assurance is the necessary critical review of research findings, ensuring research legitimacy. Without it, Open Access will have no effect.

Prerequisites for successful implementation

The strategy is primarily focused on Green Open Access, while noting that Golden Open Access is widespread in a number of scientific fields and is promoted by a range of international publishers and individual countries, e.g. the Netherlands.

Golden Open Access covers a model where the journal as such is published as Open Access, and all its articles are immediately accessible online free of charge. The costs – Article Processing Charges – are typically covered by the researcher who pays the journal/publisher for the publication of each individual article. For the time being, this model often implies considerable extra costs for public authorities in relation to the existing subscription-based publication model.

By contrast, Green Open Access refers to publication in a quality-assured journal coupled with parallel archiving of the final quality-assured version of the research-

er's article in a digital repository. This repository will have online Open Access for all, potentially following any embargo period as set by the journal.

Green Open Access is a swift and cost-effective method for disseminating highly valued and quality assured scientific articles. Green Open Access is not a change of existing quality assurance on the part of the publishers. It merely means that the final quality-assured version of the article is archived and disseminated from an online Open Access repository.

Implementation of Open Access in Denmark takes place on the basis of the following focus areas:

- Implementation of Open Access occurs via a binding cooperation between the responsible actors.
- Implementation of Open Access must support the continued possibility for Danish researchers to publish in the most respected national and international journals.
- Research institutions and university colleges must implement Open Access preferably via the green model, i.e. parallel archiving of quality-assured research articles in institutional or subject-specific digital repositories with Open Access. The golden model can be applied however, when it does not lead to an increase of costs for publishing research.
- It is recommended that research institutions and university colleges to the greatest possible extent, minimise the use of hybrid Open Access, also known as "double dipping" (payment of both licence and Article Processing Charges to release articles for Open Access) as this will increase publication costs.
- Research institutions and university colleges must encourage researchers to utilise their rights to Open Access publishing. For example, institutions could consider allowing Open Access to be taken into account in a positive manner when examining the qualifications of the individual researcher.
- Research institutions and university colleges must inform and assist researchers with regard to the practical use of the Open Access publishing infrastructure e.g. in the form of clear guidelines and staff who can offer assistance.
- Through negotiations with scientific publishers, research institutions and their representatives, include Denmark's Electronic Research Library, must work to ensure that researchers have the right to archive the final quality-assured version of their scientific articles in a digital archive. As part of this effort, research institutions and DEFF must work to ensure that Open Access archiving can be realised within a maximum of 12 months.

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- Public research foundations must support that grant recipients comply with their Open Access policy, and every second year must evaluate the effect of the policy.
- It is recommended that private research foundations develop Open Access policies.
- Once a year, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science will monitor the implementation of Open Access via the Open Access Indicator (OAI) to support that all parties are doing their utmost to develop and expand free accessibility to Danish research results. With this target, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science commits itself to operating and developing the Open Access Indicator according to the needs of the user, with the precondition that the necessary financing is in place.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Science, through its work with stakeholders, will inform companies of the opportunities to gain free access to scientific articles.
- For research results to be effectively applied, it is necessary to create a single well-functioning platform for the overall dissemination of Danish research results. With this target, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science commits itself to operating and developing the Danish Research Database (DDF) according to the needs of the user, with the precondition that the necessary financing is in place.
- There must continue to be an opportunity to publish in Danish-language journals. With this target, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science commits itself to operating and developing an Open Access platform for Danish journals, according to the needs of the user, with the precondition that the necessary financing is in place.
- While the implementation of Open Access will primarily occur via the green model, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, in consultation with Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) will regularly monitor international development and investigate opportunities for other, long-term, cost-effective models (golden model, big deals, etc.) that can promote the transition to full Open Access.
- The Ministry of Higher Education and Science will work to promote the Open Access agenda on a European level in an economically sustainable direction.

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Overall, the cooperation on these focus areas will form the foundation for the best possible implementation of Open Access and thereby contribute to Denmark utilising research in an optimal way for the benefit of all of society.

The strategy will be evaluated in 2021-2022.