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Open Access Policy

University of Iceland policy on open access to research results and final projects including rules of procedure

Discussed at the 10th University Forum, 19 April 2013, and approved by the University Council 6 February 2014.

The University of Iceland considers it important that as many people as possible can benefit from the results of the research work conducted within the university. The University therefore encourages staff to publish articles in open access outlets, such as open access journals, archives, preprint databases, etc. The University of Iceland open access policy does not apply to books or book chapters.

Staff must provide the Division of Science and Innovation free of charge with electronic access to the final version of their articles no later than by their date of publication. They may do so by submitting the articles in an appropriate format (such as PDF), sending a link to an open access website or in another suitable manner. The University of Iceland is authorised to save articles and make them accessible in an open online archive. This applies to all scientific articles authored by University staff, alone or with co-authors, during their period of employment at the University.

Scientific articles completed and articles for which work had already commenced before this resolution entered into force are exempt if conditions apply to them which do not conform to this resolution.

The Division of Science and Innovation is furthermore authorised to exempt individual articles from this resolution, or to delay their publication for a set period, should the member of staff in question submit a reasoned request in writing to this effect, cf. the relevant rules of procedure.

Research work within the University of Iceland also bears fruit in the form of students' final projects, as part of both undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The University considers it important that these projects be accessible to all as far as possible. A resolution from the University Council from 21 February 2008 and the relevant provisions in the Regulation for the University of Iceland apply to the electronic

submission of final projects.

The Division of Science and Innovation is responsible for the interpretation of policy and rules of procedure on open access publishing and resolution of disputes. They will propose revisions when appropriate. The Division of Academic Affairs is responsible for the interpretation and resolution of disputes in cases of students' final projects.

This policy and the accompanying rules of procedure shall be reviewed within three years and the statement on implementation presented to the University Council.

Rules of procedure on the open access publishing of scientific articles

1. The University of Iceland encourages its staff to publish their scientific articles in journals which are published in an open access format. The University of Iceland does not directly participate in the possible expenses of open access publishing. Members of academic staff at the University are however, depending on the circumstances, permitted to use their research funding to cover such expenses.
2. No later than the date of publication, the author of a scientific article must send the Division of Science and Innovation an electronic copy of the final version of the article. This electronic copy may be submitted in PDF format, as a link to a website, or in another suitable manner.

3. The University of Iceland is authorised to make articles accessible on the internet, though see Article 4.

4. An author may request that a certain journal article be made exempt from the provisions of Article 3 if it can be satisfactorily shown that it is not possible to publish the article's content in an open access outlet. Such exemptions may be permanent or involve the delay of open access publication. The following factors are considered when evaluating requests for exemptions:

a) The academic quality of the journal.

The author is invited to publish a scientific article in a prestigious traditional subscription journal with a high impact factor. A key policy target at the University of Iceland is to increase the number of quality publications in all schools within the University. University of Iceland policy places significant emphasis on academic staff selecting a publication outlet that makes rigorous academic demands and is likely to increase the impact of the University's research work. Emphasis on publishing articles in open access outlets must not reduce the impact of University of Iceland research work at the domestic and international levels. Authors publishing an article in a subscription journal with a high impact factor shall, if possible, also publish the article in an open access online archive.

b) Publication outlet selected by another party.

The author has to defer to the decisions of another party, e.g. the research leader or a co-author, for example at a collaborating university or research centre outside Iceland.

c) Cost

The cost to the author is considered excessive or not in keeping with what would be thought reasonable.

5. Requests for exemptions cf. Article 4 shall be directed to the Division of Science and Innovation through their homepage (http://www.hi.is/adalvefur/visinda_og_nyskopunarsvid).

6. These rules of procedure are based on the University of Iceland policy on open access to research results and final projects, approved by the University Council 6 February 2014. The Division of Science and Innovation and Division of Academic Affairs shall resolve any disputes that may arise in connection with the implementation of these rules. These rules shall enter into force 1 July 2014.

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- Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Faculty of Ind. Eng. - Mech. Eng. and Computer Science
- Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
- Faculty of Physical Sciences

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