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# Open Access Policy
# and Research Data Management
# at the University of Malta

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# Open Access : definition

**Open Access (OA)** refers to the practice of providing online access to scientific information that is free of charge to the end-user and reusable. 'Scientific' refers to all academic disciplines. In the context of research and innovation, 'scientific information' can mean:

1. peer-reviewed scientific research articles (published in scholarly journals) or
2. research data (data underlying publications, curated data and/or raw data).

*[Guidelines to the Rules on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Open Access to Research Data in Horizon 2020]*

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# OAR@UM
**Open Access Repository**

# Open Access Policy for the University of Malta (UM OA Policy)?

o Open Access Policy expresses the commitment of an institution to disseminate the research and scholarship as widely as possible

o Legally binding document that serves to ensure that all research outputs produced under the auspices of the University are made freely available to everyone via the Institutional Repository OAR@UM

o Full text in OAR@UM:
   https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar//handle/123456789/20022
o ROARMAP:
   http://roarmap.eprints.org/1643/

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# Benefits of OA Policy: University of Malta

○ Collects and preserves its scientific output and disseminates it through its Institutional Repository

○ Provides the possibility of indexing and tracking the scientific output of the institution from international search engines on the internet such as Google

○ Monitors the number of visits and use, and collects data and indicators that can be used in institutional planning, and the search for sources of funding

○ Provides opportunities for the use and re-use of the institution's output for scientific purposes

○ Strengthens international communication and collaboration channels and the institution's international profile

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# Benefits of OA Policy: Researcher

o   Enhances the visibility of their research and their citations

o   Increases the usage of their research

o   Increases the impact of their research

o   Obtains a permanent link for each of their research output

o   Collects entire research output on one platform

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# UM OA Policy – Depositing Research

# Who should deposit?

o 'Researchers are strongly encouraged to deposit a copy of all peer-reviewed research publications produced under the auspices of the UM in OAR@UM' (§ 3.2)

o **Researcher** is a member of **staff of the UM who has a Council appointment of employment** and who performs research as defined in the UM OA Policy.

o Research means any systematic investigation or study funded by the UM, and intended as a contribution to scholarship. It refers to the research output created by the researcher in accordance with the UM's collective agreement, and/or any research conducted through a research grant secured by virtue of the researcher's affiliation with the UM.

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# OAR@UM
Open Access Repository

# Where to deposit?

o   'Researchers are strongly encouraged to deposit a copy of all peer-reviewed research publications produced under the auspices of the UM in **OAR@UM**' (§ 3.2)

o   OAR@UM is the UM's Institutional Repository. It serves as an online platform for the submission and dissemination of Open Access research produced at the UM. OAR@UM is managed by the Library.

o   Publications are to be submitted in accordance to the researchers' affiliation

https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/

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# How to deposit?

o **Self-deposit:**
Researchers deposit their materials themselves by filling in the appropriate metadata form and attaching the soft copy of the publication

o **Mediated deposit:**
Materials are deposited on behalf of Researchers by the Open Science Department or support staff

# What to deposit?

○ 'Researchers are strongly encouraged to deposit a copy of **all peer-reviewed research** publications produced under the auspices of the UM in OAR@UM' (§ 3.2)

○ Post-print is the final version of the output as accepted for publication, including all modifications arising from the peer review process. Post-print versions may have two forms: the Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM), or the Publisher Version (PV), also known as the publisher PDF or Version of Record (VOR).

**PREPRINT**
SUBMITTED VERSION
—————
• Final authors version
• Before peer review

**POSTPRINT**
ACCEPTED VERSION
—————
• Accepted by publisher
• After peer review

**PUBLISHED**
VERSION
—————
• Final published version in print/digital format
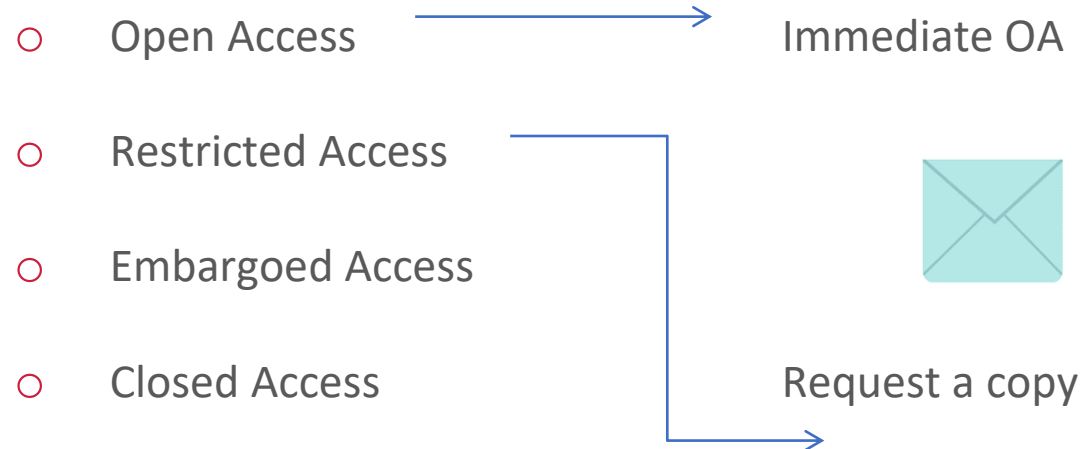
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# When to deposit?

○ 'Researchers are strongly encouraged to deposit a copy of all peer-reviewed research publications produced under the auspices of the UM in OAR@UM, and to do so **as soon as possible upon publication**.' (§ 3.2)

○ 'Researchers may also opt to deposit a copy of the peer-reviewed research paper **upon acceptance** for publication accompanied by the publisher's dated acceptance letter.' (§ 3.4)

○ 'The full-text of all publications is to be made openly available at the time of deposit, or as soon as possible thereafter, subject to copyright transfer agreements.'(§ 3.3)

Request a Copy

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# Levels of access in OAR@UM

- Open Access ⟶ Immediate OA

- Restricted Access

- Embargoed Access

- Closed Access ⟶ Request a copy

# UM Open Access Policy: 3 years later

o      Increased awareness of OA and OAR@UM

o      Increased participation in OAR@UM

- 85 UM Academics requested access to submit their publications in OAR@UM via self-deposit

- 180 UM Academics gave their consent to the UM Library to have their publications deposited in OAR@UM via mediated deposit

- Common practice to make use of the self-deposit/mediated deposit upon publication

- Over 60.000 deposited papers (on average 110 new submissions daily)

# Open Access and the Collective Agreement (1)



**Collective Agreement for**

**Academic Staff of the University of Malta**

**2019 - 2023**

26.4.   The University will only consider those publications whose metadata has been deposited in the UM Institutional Repository.

33.12.   All academics are to regularly post and update their list of publications on the UM institutional repository to ensure maximum exposure and international visibility.

42.13.   Academics are to deposit all their research produced under the auspices of the UM in the UM's Institutional Repository as outlined in the University policy.

# Open Access and the Collective Agreement (2)

29.3. Applications for promotion to Professorial grades (Associate Professor, Professor and Visiting Associate Professor, Visiting Professor) may be submitted during the months of March and October each year. Such applicants must submit a letter of motivation, their Curriculum Vitae, their list of publications as available on the UM Institutional Repository, clearly indicating their best six, and copies of all their publications in print or standard digital format.

29.5. Applicants for promotion to Lecturing grades (Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Visiting Lecturer, Visiting Senior Lecturer) may submit their applications at any time. An application must include a letter of motivation, an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, a copy of their Ph.D. certificate and a list of publications as available on the UM Institutional Repository. Applicants must also include evidence of programmes of continuous professional development undertaken by the academic member of staff.

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# Open Data at the UM

o    High level of interest of the UM academic community

o    Option to upload data files in OAR@UM **already** in place X not popular

o    Obstacles:

        - lack of awareness

        - lack of structured guidelines specifying

                a) deposit location

                b) handling of different data types

# Open Data Guidelines at the UM (2)

o   Currently UM does not have any OD guidelines in place

o   Looking into adopting an OD guidelines in the near future

o   Reviewing the best practices of foreign institutions and identified key elements of an RDM policy that can be applied in local settings

o   Clear RDM/OD policy/guidelines comprise one of the outcomes of the SEA-EU & reSEArch-EU projects that the UM is currently involved in

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# Useful Links:

OAR@UM:
https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/

OAR@UM Contact:
http://www.um.edu.mt/contact/oarlib

UM Open Access Policy:
https://www.um.edu.mt/library/oar//handle/123456789/20022

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# Thank you for your attention.

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