University of Helsinki Principles for Open Access Publishing 2026

General principles

- As a rule, scholarly publications and theses produced at the University of Helsinki are openly available. The requirement for open access publishing applies to all members of the University community. The University recommends that researchers also make openly available their non peer-reviewed publications.
- The University promotes equal opportunities for members of its community to publish their research openly, regardless of the research field, funding source or career stage.
- The research results are published in high-quality academic publication channels.
- The University has an overall picture of the costs of open access publishing and aims to ensure that they remain reasonable.
- The University aims to promote the immediate open access of new publications.
- The University develops its own assessment practices in such a way that activities to promote open access to research publications and, more generally, open publication culture, are considered when evaluating researchers and research.
- The University guarantees the long-term availability of research publications produced by its community.

Open access publishing services

- The University offers a long-term stable repository for research publications. The comprehensive archiving of publications in the Helda open repository guarantees the documentation, long-term preservation and further use of research.
- All scholarly publications produced at the University are self-archived in Helda. To ensure the long-term availability of research publications, open publications are also self-archived. The Helsinki University Library offers a self-archiving service.
- The University's prior licence model supports authors' rights to their own publications and enables the self-archiving of peer-reviewed article manuscript versions under a Creative Commons licence, irrespective of publisher terms. Publications falling outside the scope of the prior licence model (such as publications lacking peer review and monographs) must be self-archived in accordance with publisher terms. The Helsinki University Library offers advice in prior licensing issues. (See Glossary: Prior licence model)
- Theses completed at the University of Helsinki are published in Helda. The University offers support for responsibly opening access to theses.
- The Helsinki University Library offers centralised support for the processing charges of open access article publishing. (See Glossary: Article processing charge)
- The University offers significant and high-quality publishing platform and publisher services for the open access publishing of journals and books.

- Academic publications will also be opened for access retrospectively in Helda, while taking into account the needs of disciplines as well as copyright issues.
- The University offers training, support and guidelines for open access publishing. This training is offered to both students and staff.
- The University supports the development of open access publishing practices, publishing infrastructures and new funding models.

Responsibilities of the author

- Open access publishing must be considered when planning the research process. In the research plan, the researcher must explain how the resulting publications will be made openly available. The plan must also consider the research funder's terms and conditions for open access publishing.
- It is the author's responsibility to assess the quality and reliability of the publication channel already when planning the publication. The Helsinki University Library will provide support when needed.
- Issues of authorship for co-authored publications must be agreed upon before the manuscript is sent to the publisher. The University recommends that authors familiarise themselves with the relevant guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK).
- The University of Helsinki must be named in the publication as the author's affiliation.
- The author must add the publication information to the research information system Tuhat and ensure that the publication or its latest approved manuscript version is self-archived in Helda. If needed, the University Library's self-archiving service will take care of the archiving.
- The further use of scholarly publications should not be unnecessarily restricted, and the terms and conditions of use should be clearly stated. The University recommends using a current version of the Creative Commons licence unless the publisher or funder requires otherwise. The Helsinki University Library offers advice in licensing issues.
- It is recommended that researchers use the international ORCID identifier and add it to their publications. The identifier enables reliable identification of the researchers and their publications. The University also recommends that researchers create a public profile using the ORCID identifier in the national Research.fi service, where publication data can be collected from different sources.
- Theses (bachelor's, master's, and doctoral) completed at the University of Helsinki are published openly in the Helda open repository unless there are justifiable grounds for doing otherwise. For theses, it is recommended to use the Creative Commons CC BY or CC BY-NC-ND licence. In the case of article-based doctoral theses, at least the summarising report should be openly available. The Helsinki University Library offers advice on licensing issues.

Monitoring and updating of the principles

This document supersedes the previous University of Helsinki Principles for Open Access Publishing, approved in 2025. The implementation of the principles is monitored through regular assessments. The principles for open access publishing will next be updated no later than 2030.

Glossary

Academic or scholarly publication = a publication disseminated through an academic publication channel and containing new research knowledge, which is verifiable, utilisable and subject to assessment by other researchers. It may be produced by one or multiple researchers, the primary target group being other experts in the field. According to the publication type classification of the Ministry of Education and Culture, scientific publications are peer-reviewed, meaning that the entire manuscript to be published must be reviewed by independent experts. Scholarly publications must always have external publishers, whose editorial boards must in turn consist of discipline-specific experts. Scholarly publications include journal articles (MinEdu classification A1 and A2), articles in compilations (A3), conference papers (A4), monographs (C1) and edited books (C2). (Sources and further information: (https://julkaisufoorumi.fi/en/evaluations/decision-publication-type)

Affiliation = The organisation or organisations in which the research or expert work is mainly carried out. An author may have more than one affiliation. Entering affiliation information in the publication metadata ensures that the publications are attributed to the right organisation and person, for example, in research information systems, reference databases and statistics. (See Glossary: ORCID)

Article processing charge = A fee charged for open access publication, paid by the author or organisation. Articles are subject to an article processing charge (APC) and books to a book processing charge (BPC). APCs may be charged by channels that are fully open access or hybrid open access, where only part of the content can be openly accessed. When a channel charges no article processing fees, it is called a diamond open access channel. (See Glossary: Open access publishing) At the Helsinki University Library, the support with article processing charges is based on agreements concluded with publishers and the Library's separate APC funding.

Hybrid open access = Publishing in a subscription-based publishing channel, which offers the opportunity to publish an individual article or book chapter as an open access publication. In hybrid access journals, the publisher is paid both a subscription fee for the right to read publications behind a paywall and an article processing fee for single-article publication. Hybrid open access has been found to lead to double dipping, thereby increasing the cost of open access publishing.

Immediate open access = Open availability of a scholarly publication (such as an article, book, book chapter) without delay (embargo). Embargos set by publishers vary, usually ranging from 6 to 24 months. Various open science projects promote immediate availability because embargos are an obstacle to open access. (See Glossary: Open access, Prior licence model)

Licence = The author's permission for open distribution of their work (including articles, books, chapters of books) under certain conditions set for further use. Creative Commons licences are frequently used in open access publishing. (Further information about CC licences: https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-university-library/library-researchers/open-science-services/copyright-and-licenses)

Long-term availability = Ensuring access to information in digital form and keeping it understandable and accessible

Manuscript versions = Pre-publication versions of an article, book or book chapter. There are usually two manuscript versions: (1) The pre-print, which is the submitted version; and (2) the final draft, which is the peer-reviewed version (also known as the author's accepted manuscript, AAM). This is followed by the publisher's published and finished version (Version of Record, VoR). The last version of the approved manuscript is often the version that the publisher allows to be self-archived. (Further information about manuscript versions: https://blogs.helsinki.fi/thinkopen/self-archiving-series-2-versions/). (See Glossary: Self-archiving)

Open access publishing, open access = Unrestricted and freely available access to publications via digital networks. Englanninkielinen termi *open access* tarkoittaa avointa saatavuutta, ja sen vakiintunut suomenkielinen nimitys on avoin julkaiseminen. The different ways to publish openly include, among others, the following the main routes: (1) publishing in an open access publishing channel (gold model/gold open access), where the author can be charged a processing fee (see Glossary: Article processing charge); (2) self-archiving in an open repository independent of the original publisher (green model/green open access); (3) publishing in a subscription journal which operates as a hybrid open access channel (hybrid model/hybrid open access).

ORCID = Open Researcher and Contributor ID, an international digital researcher identifier. The ORCID helps to identify researchers, for example, in situations where a researcher changes their name, or several researchers have the same name. ORCIDs reduce the need to enter publication metadata multiple times into different systems, for example, if a researcher transfers between organisations. The identifier allows the researcher to create a public profile in the national Research.fi service, where publication metadata is collected from different sources. (Further information: https://info.orcid.org/what-is-orcid/)

Prior licence model = Policy adopted by Finnish universities according to which the researcher retains the rights to the manuscript version of their peer-reviewed article. Researchers at the University of Helsinki may self-archive their peer-reviewed article manuscript versions under a Creative Commons licence, irrespective of publisher terms. The self-archiving takes place simultaneously with the publishing of the article. The University supports its researchers in any potential disputes. Researchers may also choose to opt out of the prior licence model for individual articles. The prior licence model is known internationally as the Rights Retention Strategy (RRS).

Publication archive/repository = A digital platform, including the technical system and services built around it, for the open storage and publishing of scholarly research outputs. Publication archives may be discipline-specific or maintained by an organisation. The open publication repository of the University of Helsinki is called Helda.

Publication channel = Publishers as well as journals and series are called publication channels. 'Academic publication channel' refers to book publishers, conferences, and printed and electronic publication series that specialise in publishing scholarly research results (monographs, articles in compilations, articles for periodicals or series). These channels have editorial boards of experts and follow peer review practices. An academic publication channel may also include non peer-reviewed publications , such as commentaries, reviews and manuals. In Finland, only academic publication

channels are eligible for a Publication Forum classification in an open access publication channel, all content is immediately available to readers at the time of publication. (Source: julkaisufoorumi.fi/en/evaluations/classification-criteria)

Self-archiving = A parallel way of open access publishing to publishing the original work. Self-archiving also ensures the long-term availability of publications. In self-archiving, a specific version of the article – often the final manuscript version, peer-reviewed and approved for publication – is stored in a discipline-specific or organisational repository. Open access publications are also self-archived to ensure long-term storage. (Further information: https://www.helsinki.fi/en/helsinki-university-library/library-researchers/self-archiving) (See Glossary: Open access publishing and Manuscript versions)