

## Summary of Tri-Agency Open Access Policy

March 2, 2015 – This is a summary for physicists prepared by the Canadian Association of Physicists. Please check details yourself before complying with the policy.

### Introduction

NSERC has recently announced the Tri-Council Open Access Policy on Publications. CAP responded to the request for comments when the policy was in draft stage after consultation with members. This is an update on material presented by CAP at that time.

### Summary

- The basic principle is that federally-funded research should be broadly disseminated
- The policy requires that federally-funded peer-reviewed journal publications be made freely available within 1 year of publication
- Grant recipients must also acknowledge NSERC funding in all publications, quoting the funding number
- The policy applies to all grants awarded after May 1, 2015; others are encouraged to comply
- There are two routes
  - (a) Authors can deposit final, peer-reviewed manuscripts (so-called post-print) in an institutional or disciplinary online repositories.
    - The post-print is described as the final full-text peer-reviewed manuscript including all tables, figures, etc. It generally does not include journal-specific formatting
    - Many universities have institutional repositories – see list of Canadian archives here: <http://www.carl-abrc.ca/ir.html>.
    - There is a large international directory of Open Access Repositories: <http://www.opendoar.org/>. arXiv.org is listed as one of these – it is common for physicists to use this.
    - Not all journals allow this, so researchers will have to check the journal before they submit. The Sherpa/Romeo database is a good resource for checking journal publishing and archiving policies: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>
  - (b) Authors can publish in journals that offer immediate open access or open access within 12 months on their websites. There seem to be two models – fully open access and hybrid models.

Examples of physics journals that are fully open access include: [Physical Review X](#), [Living Reviews in Relativity](#), [New Journal of Physics](#), [Advances in Condensed Matter Physics](#), [Entropy](#). For example, Physical Review X is an on-line only, fully open access journal. There is an article processing charge of \$1500 for a 20,000 word equivalent article, with charges increasing with article size.

- There is a directory of Open Access journals: <http://www.doaj.org/>

- Many of Canada's research libraries have a fund for supporting authors who want to publish in an Open Access journal

In a hybrid model, publishers offer to make the published article accessible as an option, although there is a cost to the researcher associated with this which is in addition to page charges:

- APS: \$1700 for PR, \$2700 for PRL (final published manuscript is open access)
- ACS: \$1000-\$3000 (final published manuscript is open access)

#### **Final Notes:**

1. You do have to be a bit careful about where you publish if you don't want to have to pay extra open access fees. E.g. Science is better than Nature, APS journals are better than ACS journals. For example, Nature Publishing Group will allow researchers to archive a pre-print, but not a post-print. This would not satisfy the policy as proposed.
2. You should contact librarians at your institution to learn more about open access and archiving options
3. This policy only includes grants – it does not apply to holders of fellowships for example
4. Details about the policy can be found here:

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=75F21A63-1>

Particularly useful are the FAQs:

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=A30EBB24-1>