

## GSA Open Access Policy

Alison Stevenson, Head of Learning Resources  
Ken Neil, Head of Research

### Open Access

'Open Access' (OA) refers to unrestricted, online access to the published findings of research. OA offers significant social and economic benefits: for individuals, businesses, institutions and society. For researchers OA means increased exposure of their own research, and increased access to the research of their peers. The GSA's position is that all research should be as widely and freely accessible as the available channels for dissemination will allow.

In line with HEFCE guidance<sup>1</sup>, all journal articles and conferences proceedings by GSA staff must be made as widely accessible as possible. This means they must be made publicly available no later than three months after the date of acceptance (notwithstanding any embargo periods from funders or publishers). For the next REF, if a journal article or conference proceeding is deemed not to comply with HEFCE open access conditions it will be given an unclassified score and will not be assessed in the REF.

The HEFCE open access requirements for the next REF do not generally apply to monographs, book chapters, other long-form publications, working papers, creative or practice-based research outputs, or data. However, "credit will be given in the research environment component of the post-2014 REF" where these output types are OA. GSA staff are expected to make best efforts to use available channels for dissemination of these output types. Research and Doctoral Studies staff are available to support them in these efforts.

The Library and the Research Office are working on guidance for colleagues on approaches to achieving effective OA for a range of REF Panel D Unit of Assessment 34 output types.

### Routes to 'Open Access' at the GSA

There are two models of open access: 'Gold' and 'Green'. Green OA involves authors depositing a version of their paper in an institutional repository or an OA subject repository (such as ART-Dok). Gold OA involves paying an Article Processing Charge (APC) to make the paper fully accessible through the publisher's website. In both Green and Gold models, papers undergo the same rigorous peer-review processes as in traditional academic publishing.

The GSA preference is for 'Green' OA, through our institutional repository, RADAR<sup>2</sup>. Academics can deposit a wide variety of content types into RADAR, including text, images, audio and video, which are then made freely available online. Research and Doctoral Studies staff are available to support GSA staff to understand their rights and responsibilities with regard to 'open access' compliance and publisher licenses. A short briefing paper<sup>3</sup> has been made available online, as well as a series of frequently asked questions<sup>4</sup>.

The GSA receives no funding from RCUK to support Gold OA through APCs. The only source of funding for APCs is therefore the GSA Research Development Fund or external grant funding. GSA Research Development Funding will not be granted for an APC if a Green OA option is available. Research and Doctoral Studies staff are available to support academic staff in discovering if a Green OA option is available.

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<sup>1</sup> HEFCE Policy for open access in the post-2014 REF: Updated July 2015

[http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/HEFCE,2014/Content/Pubs/2014/201407/HEFCE2014\\_07\\_updated%20July%202015.pdf](http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/HEFCE,2014/Content/Pubs/2014/201407/HEFCE2014_07_updated%20July%202015.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> RADAR repository <http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> GSA Briefing paper: Open Access to Research

<http://lib.gsa.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/GSA-briefing-paper-OA-February-2015.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> RADAR FAQs (including OA and APCs) <http://lib.gsa.ac.uk/resources/radar/radar-faq/>

## Tracking open access

Any HEFCE / REF audit will require institutions to provide assurance about their processes and systems for recording open access information. The GSA will use RADAR to report on open access information. If a research output is not recorded in RADAR, it is deemed for the purposes of GSA processes not to exist.

## Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the staff member publishing a journal article or conference proceeding to:

- deposit a PDF of their research output into RADAR with a deadline of no later than three months after acceptance (notwithstanding any embargo periods);

It is the responsibility of the staff member producing another output type to either:

- deposit their research output (or documentation of that output, such as images, video and audio) into RADAR;
- or, create a record for their research in RADAR which includes a link to the openly accessible version;
- or, create a record for their research in RADAR which includes a description of the research output, but not the output itself.

It is the responsibility of the Research and Doctoral Studies department to:

- encourage OA publishing by providing advice and support to GSA staff to understand their rights and responsibilities with regard to 'open access' compliance, publisher licenses and Green OA through RADAR;
- provide regular reports to RKEC, documenting what content is OA, and alerting Schools to journal article and conference proceedings content which is not OA;
- provide regular reports to RKEC reporting on any invalid links to OA content outside of RADAR;
- track and report on APC payments made;
- track and report on OA compliance with specific research funding requirements.

It is the responsibility of the Library to:

- contribute to the development of strategy and planning around OA at the GSA, drawing on discussions and developments in the external environment (e.g. SCURL, SHEDL and SCONUL);
- manage and monitor Library subscription deals to include APCs where appropriate and to communicate relevant information to the Research and Doctoral Studies team;
- support discovery and use of OA content in RADAR as a resource for learning and research (e.g. via integration of RADAR into the Library's Discovery Layer).

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