

Rutgers Open Access Policy

PROLOGUE

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is one of the nation's leading research universities and the state's preeminent, comprehensive public institution of higher education. Rutgers is dedicated to conducting research that breaks new ground, and to turning knowledge into solutions for local, national, and global communities.

Sharing scholarship is key to advancing knowledge. In support of greater openness, Rutgers scholars seek to collaborate and share their work as widely as possible. An open access policy will increase the visibility, readership and impact of Rutgers scholarship and ensure that it is widely and permanently available in the University's digital repository to readers and researchers worldwide.

In joining other major research universities in promoting open and free access to peer reviewed literature, Rutgers takes a leadership role in reshaping scholarly communication. Toward this end, the scholars of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, have developed the following open access policy.

POLICY TEXT

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, Rutgers University adopts the following policy: Each scholarⁱ grants to Rutgers University a nonexclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articlesⁱⁱ, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, solely for the purpose of providing and maintaining public access to them. This policy does not alter copyright ownership rights determined in accordance with law or the Rutgers University Copyright Policy.ⁱⁱⁱ The policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is affiliated with Rutgers^{iv}, except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy, and any articles for which the scholar entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (or designate) will grant a waiver for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time (embargo) upon express direction by a scholar. The University also commits to educating students at the graduate level in the principles and practices of Open Access.

Each scholar will provide, at no charge, an electronic copy of the author's final version^v of each article, no later than the date of its publication, to the designated representative of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, in an appropriate format (such as PDF) as specified by the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to the University Senate from time to time. The policy will be reviewed after three years and a report will be presented to the Senate.

This policy is modeled in part on Harvard University's "A Model Open-Access Policy" by Stuart M. Shieber.
http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/model-policy-annotated_0.pdf

ⁱ “Scholars” means all members of the faculty, as well as Rutgers graduate and post-doctoral students, while they are employed by, or enrolled at, Rutgers.

ⁱⁱ “Scholarly articles” generally refers to peer-reviewed journal articles or conference proceedings created without expectation of payment. It does not include books, commissioned articles, artworks, popular writings, fiction, poetry, nor pedagogical materials (lecture notes and videos, case studies, etc.).

ⁱⁱⁱ Rutgers University Copyright Policy may be found at <http://otc.rutgers.edu/downloads/Copyright%20Policy%201-07.pdf>.

^{iv} “Affiliated with Rutgers” means employed by, or enrolled at, Rutgers.

^v “Author’s final version” refers to the version following formal peer review, sometimes called “the postprint,” and distinguished from the publisher’s branded pdf version.

The Rutgers University Senate, on October 19, 2012, adopted a resolution recommending that the Rutgers administration adopt this policy. On February 19, 2013, Rutgers University President Robert L. Barchi accepted the Senate's recommendation to adopt an Open Access Policy at Rutgers. Implementation planning is currently underway.