
Open Access to Research Outputs Policy

Policy Sponsor:	Vice-President Academic
Policy Contact:	Manager, Research Services
Policy Number:	N/A
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Approval Group:	Governors of Athabasca University
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Review Date:	Annual
Procedure:	Open Access to Research Outputs Procedures

Purpose

To promote the diffusion of research by making research outputs accessible to the widest possible audience and at the earliest possible opportunity.

Definitions

Digital repository	A virtual space wherein digital materials are deposited and preserved for future use.
Open Access	Available to the user, via the Internet without restriction and without charge.
Researcher	Anyone who conducts research activities. Includes, but is not limited to, academics, tutors, undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and other personnel involved directly or indirectly in research, including, but not limited to research assistants/associates, technical and support staff, adjunct professors, visiting professors, and institutional administrators.



Research outputs Include, but are not limited to, full-text publications and research data.

Sponsor An external entity that enters into a written agreement with AU to provide financial or other support for research activities.

Policy Statements

1. As a publicly funded institution, Athabasca University (AU) supports open access to research outputs.
2. Researchers are encouraged to make the results of their research permanently accessible online, through peer-reviewed open access journals, monographs or textbooks, or through institutional digital repositories or archival systems.
3. Researchers are obliged to comply with the open access publication policy of their research sponsor(s).
4. Researchers shall ensure that the rights of human participants regarding protection of their privacy and the confidentiality of information obtained for research purposes is respected in the publication of research outputs.

Applicable Legislation and Regulations

[Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. F-25](#)

Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Fair Dealing Policy](#)

[Fair Dealing Procedures](#)

[Open Access to Research Outputs Procedures](#)

[Budapest Open Access Initiative](#)

Databases, such as SHERPA/RoMEO, which contain searchable lists of journal publisher's copyright and self-archiving policies.

Publicly accessible repositories and archives, such as Directory of Open Access Repositories, Institutional Repositories at Canadian Universities, and PubMed Central Canada.

Tri-Agency policies related to open access publication, including

[Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\) Open Access Policy](#)
<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/32005.html> (and as amended or replaced)

[Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council \(NSERC\) Use of Grant Funds](#)
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-guideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp (and as amended or replaced)



Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) *Open Access*
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/policies-politiques/open_access-libre_acces/index-eng.aspx (and as amended or replaced)

History

Governors of Athabasca University, June 13, 2014, Motion # 190-05 (approved)