

# **Rīga Stradiņš University Open Access Policy**

## **Version 2**

### **1. General provisions**

- 1.1. The Open Access Policy aims to implement and promote the principles of open science at Rīga Stradiņš University (hereinafter – RSU).
- 1.2. The implementation of the Open Access Policy involves ensuring open access to scientific publications and datasets, which means that they shall be made available to everyone free of charge in an open and non-discriminatory manner as early as possible in the dissemination process. This provides both researchers and the general public with access to peer-reviewed publications, publicly funded research datasets, and other research outputs, and enables the application and reuse of scientific results.
- 1.3. RSU shall adopt the Open Access Policy, taking into account the following documents:
  - PASTEUR4OA (Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research) Open Access Policy Guidelines and Template for Funders (Open Access Policy Guidelines for Research Performing Organisations) (September 2015);
  - Commission Recommendation (EU) 2018/790 of 25 April 2018 on access to and preservation of scientific information;
  - Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No. 1290/2013 and (EU) No. 1291/2013 (Text with EEA relevance);
  - Horizon Europe (2021-2027) Programme Guide (version 5.0 of 15 May 2025);
  - Latvian Open Science Strategy 2021-2027;
  - Rīga Stradiņš University Development Strategy 2022-2027.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. Open access: perpetual and free access to full-text scientific publications and research datasets on the web for any user, supported by a set of organisational and technical features.
- 2.2. Depositing: a process by which publications or research datasets are placed in a secure, organised storage, ensuring their preservation, accessibility, and reuse over time, without any transfer of ownership.
- 2.3. Embargo: a period during which the full text of the publication is stored in the repository as “closed” and is not freely available online.
- 2.4. Institutional repository: a digital archive for collecting and disseminating the institution’s intellectual achievements in digital format, ensuring their management, long-term preservation, and accessibility.
- 2.5. Metadata: a structured description of data content that makes it easy to find and use. Metadata includes: author, title, publication date, language code (ISO), document type, keywords, identifiers (ISSN/ISBN, DOI, URI, etc.), abstract, and other fixed electronic information related to the study, developed by the author.
- 2.6. Self-archiving: publishing without a publisher proxy.
- 2.7. Research data: recorded information of various types: facts, observations, images, video/audio recordings, computer programme results, measurements, and other types of empirical evidence on which arguments, theories, tests, hypotheses, and other research results are based.
- 2.8. Dataset: a collection of similar or related research data grouped for research purposes.
- 2.9. Closed access: access to full text is denied; only metadata is available; a summary and/or table of contents may be available.
- 2.10. Scientific publication: a scientific text written and published in a scientific style, using the terminology of the relevant scientific field. The text reflects the results of theoretical and empirical research by author/authors with relevant education and experience in the relevant scientific field or interdisciplinary area. It has been peer-reviewed prior to publication and contains references to primary (predominantly) and secondary scientific literature.
- 2.11. FAIR principles: principles defined to maximise the usability of research data. Research data under these principles should be findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.

- 2.12. Data management plan: a document describing how data generated during a research project will be collected, organised, documented, stored, and shared, including its availability and retention strategy.
- 2.13. ZDIS Pure: RSU's scientific activity information system, in which information regarding the results of the scientific activity of departments and academic staff is recorded, collected, and maintained.

### **3. Key principles of open access**

3.1. Open access can be provided either by self-archiving (via a repository) or by open access publishing (via a journal):

3.1.1. Self-archiving ("green" open access): the author or their representative shall archive (deposit) scientific publications, related research data, or the final peer-reviewed manuscript in the institutional repository before, at the same time of, or after publication. Publishers may only request that open access be granted after the embargo period.

3.1.2. Open access publishing ("gold" open access): authors publish the results of their research in open access journals or monograph series and deposit them in the institutional repository. Publication costs for the researcher may be covered by a financier affiliated with RSU or by RSU itself, with the necessity and amount of funding assessed in advance. Costs may also be covered by the researcher from personal resources or via a financier. These publications shall be freely available in the institutional repository immediately after publication, even if the journal itself does not provide open access.

3.2. Open access helps improve quality, reduce duplication of research, accelerate scientific progress, combat scientific fraud, and can generally contribute to economic growth and innovation.

3.3. Effective and widespread dissemination of scientific results is an essential responsibility of RSU as a scientific and research institution.

3.4. Increased visibility of scientific results resulting from open access enhances the impact of publications within the relevant field.

3.5. Depositing in the institutional repository ensures long-term preservation, further dissemination, and access to RSU research outputs.

#### **4. Implementation of the RSU Open Access Policy**

In implementing the Open Access Policy, RSU shall determine the following:

4.1. Researchers shall deposit a digital copy of the full-text scientific publication, along with any related metadata, in the institutional repository. Researchers are responsible for ensuring that their publications are deposited in a timely manner. All information related to the publication may be automatically transferred to the institutional repository from ZDIS Pure if the researcher selects the appropriate option when entering publication information in ZDIS Pure.

4.2. Full texts of all scientific publications published in open access shall be deposited in the institutional repository as soon as possible after publication. For publications with closed access status, it is recommended that they be deposited in the institutional repository as closed access, provided this does not conflict with the journal's rules.

4.3. Other non-scientific publications of various types may also be deposited in open access in the institutional repository to facilitate information exchange.

4.4. Researchers are encouraged to deposit publications prepared prior to the effective date of this policy in the institutional repository.

4.5. In accordance with the RSU Research Data Management Procedures, researchers shall establish a data management plan within one month of project approval, complying with FAIR principles and specifying the strategy for data processing, storage, and sharing.

4.6. Researchers shall deposit research data in open access repositories if no publication restrictions apply, except in cases specified by the RSU Research Data Management Procedures.

4.7. Datasets generated in research projects shall be deposited in an open access repository in accordance with the RSU Research Data Management Procedures. Researchers are encouraged to deposit datasets prepared prior to the effective date of this policy in open access repositories.

4.8. Researchers are encouraged to retain copyright to the fullest extent possible, transferring to publishers only the rights required for publication. Researchers are also advised to retain the right to self-archive.

#### **5. Support and monitoring of the Open Access Policy**

5.1. RSU shall support the implementation of open access by organising seminars and events, raising awareness, and providing education and training on open access matters.

5.2. RSU shall provide the necessary human resources and infrastructure for the implementation of the Open Access Policy:

5.2.1. The Department of Information Technology shall ensure the operation of RSU open access systems.

5.2.2. The Research Department and RSU Library shall systematically monitor the implementation of the RSU Open Access Policy and, if necessary, initiate actions to ensure compliance.

5.2.3. The Research Department shall coordinate communication and cooperation between structural units to support the implementation of the Open Access Policy.

Chair of RSU Council

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AGREED  
at the Rectorate meeting  
of Rīga Stradiņš University  
on 5 January 2026,  
Minutes No. 1-PB-1/1/2026

AGREED  
at the Senate meeting  
of Rīga Stradiņš University  
on 13.01.2026,  
Minutes No. 2-S-1/1/2026