Faculty Open Access Policy
UMass Amherst

"The basic idea of open access is simple: Make research literature available online without price barriers and without most permission barriers." - Peter Suber, Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication at Harvard

Open Access Policies Adopted Over the Last Ten Years

At the university level, open access policies are a movement by and for faculty, to retain their rights as copyright holders of their work.

Copyright Transfer vs Non-Exclusive License

Your Work  →  Copyright Transfer to Publisher  →  Publisher-Owned Work

Your Work  →  Non-Exclusive License to University  →  You are still the copyright holder. You can sign a contract with a publisher for publication, post to your website, or use it in a new work.

This version goes in the open access institutional repository, ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst. Open access = higher citation counts! You can also include your download count in your Annual Faculty Report (AFR) and know there is long-term preservation of your work.

Questions? Contact scholarworks@library.umass.edu

Charlotte Roh 2016 CC-BY
Do I have to publish in an open access journal?

Nope, you can publish wherever you want to. This policy allows you to 1) publish where you need to and 2) retain your copyright and make your work available open access through the university.

My publisher rejects this open access policy. What to do?

Simply fill out a form and the Faculty Senate will waive you from the open access policy, no questions asked. However, please note that most publishers are aware and accepting of open access policies, so double check with your publisher.

How will this policy be implemented?

The UMass Amherst Libraries is taking point since we already have an institutional repository, ScholarWorks@UMass Amherst, that is capable of taking in your work for long-term digital preservation and access.

Does that mean extra work for me?

If you have to submit work anyway in order to be compliant with funder open access and annual faculty report (AFR) requirements, this will actually reduce the workload, as the Libraries will be working with other units on campus to streamline the process.

Otherwise, it might mean one more form to fill out online. We are sincerely trying to make the intake form as simple and basic as possible to reduce the burden. Please talk to us about how we can make it easier for you!

The Faculty Senate document overviewing the draft language can be found at https://www.umass.edu/senate/sites/default/files/Open%20Access%20Policy-01-15.pdf.

The open access policy is a non-exclusive license that gives the university permission to 1) preserve and protect your rights and 2) increase access to your work.

Questions? Want us to speak to your department? Contact us at scholarworks@library.umass.edu or we can email you.

Your email: ________________________________