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ETH Zurich's open access policy dated 17 January 2018

Preamble

As an international university, the success of its researchers in the global research community is crucial for ETH Zurich. It therefore regards it as a priority to offer its researchers access to the leading, most prestigious journals in their field for the publication of their research results and encourage the best possible dissemination of knowledge. This particularly goes for young researchers, to whom ETH Zurich feels a special obligation when it comes to carving out a successful academic career.

ETH Zurich therefore advocates that the knowledge generated by its researchers should enjoy as much barrier-free accessibility as possible. It is convinced that global open access to knowledge improves and accelerates academic discourse, encourages transparency in the academic system and good scientific practice, and increases the visibility of both the individual researchers and ETH Zurich overall.

Open access

As a public research and education institution funded by the Swiss Confederation, ETH Zurich advocates unbridled access to knowledge for the global research community and the public. At the same time, it holds the firm view that knowledge must be provided at appropriate costs for ETH Zurich that are in reasonable proportion to the services of the publishing houses.

ETH Zurich therefore supports the open access movement and the corresponding demands of the [Berlin Declaration of 2003](#) and [LERU of 2012](#). The [swissuniversities open access strategy](#) of 31 January 2017 also serves as a guide for ETH Zurich.

Academic publishing

ETH Zurich supports the publication of knowledge by its researchers via all the roads to open access commonly used today. It advocates the widest possible diversity and is also particularly open to further, as yet unforeseeable developments within the scope of an optimum digital dissemination of knowledge, which guarantee appropriate publishing in the 21st century.

ETH Zurich requires its researchers to render all research papers, dissertations, habilitation theses and any other research results accessible via ETH Zurich's repository [Research Collection](#), provided there are no legal restrictions that prevent them from doing so. ETH Zurich expects authors, wherever possible, to avoid granting exclusive usage rights to the publishing houses and to reserve the simple right of use to make their works publicly accessible.

ETH Zurich encourages researchers to contribute to open access journals and publish their results in suitable open access journals, and provides funds for the costs incurred in the process. However, it deliberately allows researchers to choose their publication outlets freely in accordance with the academic culture of the respective discipline and the resulting publishing habits. ETH Zurich welcomes the involvement of researchers in the relevant quality assurance and editorial boards, but encourages them to approach this involvement critically – especially in the case of commercial publishing houses.

If institutions that fund research tie the granting of funding to open access requirements, these must be observed by ETH Zurich's researchers.

Support from the library

ETH Library is a competence centre for all matters relating to open access. It informs and advises researchers, supports them in their publishing activities and is responsible for maintaining the Research Collection. It conducts negotiations with the publishing houses and formulates the strategy for the future information supply. It also gathers data on the extent to which open access is implemented at ETH Zurich and thus enables it to be monitored throughout the university.

This open access policy was adapted by the Executive Board on 17 January 2018, supersedes the open access policy dated 1 July 2008 and enters into force on 1 February 2018.