

Policy Title: Open Access to Research

Policy Owner: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Keywords: 1) Open Access 2) Research Output

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1. INTENT

- 1.1 The University asserts the importance of open access to the results of research, particularly that which is publicly-funded. This research is undertaken to benefit the physical, social and cultural health of the community. Therefore, ideas and knowledge derived from publicly-funded research should be made accessible to the community as rapidly and effectively as possible.
- 1.2 Edith Cowan University is committed to the growth of a vibrant research culture that builds new knowledge in support of the many communities it was established to serve. The University therefore declares its support for the concept of open access and acknowledges that the communication and dissemination of research facilitates increased visibility and access to research outcomes and enables public access to the results of research.
- 1.3 This policy enables researchers funded by either the Australian Research Council (ARC) or the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to meet the obligations of the open access policies of these funding agencies which require authors to make the results of their research publicly accessible. To maximise the benefits from research, publications resulting from research activities supported by these Government agencies must be disseminated as broadly as possible to allow access by other researchers and the wider community.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff, affiliated researchers and students involved in research and research-related activities at ECU.

3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
“Embargo period” means	a period of time imposed by an author, funder, research participant or publisher, which prohibits open access of the published work, but after which an author may self-archive.
“Institutional Repository” (or just “repository”) means	an online archive where authors can deposit their work, thus making the work freely available in digital form. At ECU the repository is referred to as “Research Online”.
“Open Access” means	knowledge and associated materials, including research outputs and research data, are made available online and world-wide, free of charge and free of most access restrictions.
“Refereed” means	an article in which the author’s work and ideas have been subject to the scrutiny of others who are peers or experts in the field. This is also known as peer review or expert review.
“Research” means	the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it leads to new and creative outcomes.
“Publication” means	the process by which research findings are disseminated or made available to its intended audience. This can include dissemination in various research output types, including books, book chapters, journal articles, conference papers and creative works.

4. POLICY CONTENT

4.1 This policy applies to research outputs that meet the following criteria:

- i. the work is authored or co-authored by an ECU-affiliated researcher;
- ii. the work is not subject to an incompatible publication agreement, license, or assignment entered into before the adoption of this policy;
- iii. the work is in a digital format and of a type that may be included in Research Online or other repository consistent with its policies and practices.

4.2 In alignment with the University’s *Intellectual Property* policy, staff members grant to the University a perpetual, irrevocable, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive licence in favour of the University to allow the University to use that work for teaching and research purposes and to reproduce and communicate that work in any format for teaching and research purposes.

- 4.3 The outputs of scholarship and research are collected as part of the University's research performance reporting processes. These outputs are transferred from the research management system, stored and made accessible through the University's institutional repository, Research Online, which is managed by the Library. Outputs that would not normally be approved for collection as part of this process can be directly submitted for inclusion (refer to the *Institutional Repository* policy).
- 4.4 All refereed final draft research outputs will be deposited in the institutional repository after their acceptance for publication.
- 4.4.1 These outputs will be made open access, available to anyone on the internet, except where restricted by publisher policy.
- 4.4.2 Where a publisher embargo or other conditions exist that restrict open access, Research Online will comply with any embargo or restrictions before making the material available by open access.

5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following:

Policy Owner

The Policy Owner, being the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

University Librarian

The University Librarian is responsible for the management of the University's institutional repository; Research Online.

All staff, postgraduate students and affiliated researchers of Edith Cowan University.

All staff, postgraduate students and affiliated researchers of Edith Cowan University are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

6.1 Other documents which are relevant to the operation of this policy are as follows:

- ARC Open Access policy.
- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.
- *Institutional Repository* policy.
- *Intellectual Property* policy.
- NHMRC Open Access policy.

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

Policy Owner	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
All Enquiries Contact:	University Librarian
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8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy approved by:	Vice-Chancellor
Date first approved:	13 August 2013 (Vice-Chancellor) 01 August 2013 (AB43/13)
Date last modified:	20 November 2015
Revision history:	20 November 2015 – reviewed in light of academic organisational restructure. University Librarian contact details updated. Approved by policy owner.
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