



University of Malta Library
Il-Biblijoteka tal-Universita' ta' Malta

The Development of an Open Access Policy for the University of Malta

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*Knowledge,
Support,
Innovation ...*

Outline of Presentation

- Background of the UoM
- The need for an OA Policy for the UoM
- What has been done?
- Policy overview
- Difficulties encountered
- Lessons learnt
- What is being done?
- What's next?

Background

- 14 Faculties, 19 Institutes, 11 Centres
- Over 800 academics
- Over 11,000 students
- Implementation of OAR@UoM
- Need for an Institutional OA Policy

Need for an OA policy

- To support academic publishing in OA
- To guarantee that any research output produced under the auspices of the UoM is available in OA
- To support researchers adhere with H2020 mandates
- To facilitate wider dissemination
- To enhance visibility for both the University and researchers

What has been done? (1)

- Setting up of an Institutional OA Policy Working Group

Project Task 1: Enhance Knowledge on OA to Scientific Publications and Research Data

- Evaluated guidelines on OA policies
 - H2020 Guidelines on OA to Scientific Publications and Research Data in H2020
 - MedOA Net Guidelines for implementing OA Policies
 - Fact Sheet: OA to publications and Data in H2020: FAQ
 - OA Policy Guidelines for Research Performing Organizations
- Reviewed current literature and reports
- Consulted various OA policies
 - RCUK Policy on Open Access (UK) – RFI
 - Durham University (UK) – RPI
 - King’s College London (UK) – RPI
 - University of Otago (New Zealand) – RPI

What has been done? (2)

Project Task 2: Compilation of 1st draft

- identified the themes which constitute an OA policy
- drafted the policy

Project Task 3: Discussions & Feedback

- The 1st draft was discussed with the Library's Senior Management
- The necessary amendments were carried out
- Feedback from the UoM Legal Office
- Modified draft was forwarded to the University of Minho/PASTEUR4OA for review

Policy Overview (1)

- Introduction
- Definitions
- Aim of Policy
 - To make it mandatory for UoM researchers to provide OA to their peer-reviewed research papers through deposit on OAR@UoM
- Recommending Self-Archiving (Green Route)
- Supporting OA Publishing (Gold Route)

Policy Overview (2)

- Research output must be deposited on OAR@UoM as soon as possible.
- The peer-reviewed full-text of all publications have to be made openly available at the time of publication, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- The necessary metadata (title, author, institutional affiliation, name of journal that has accepted the paper, etc.) has to be made immediately openly accessible at the moment of deposit.
- In the case of publications that cannot be made immediately openly accessible because of publisher restrictions, the deposit remains mandatory, but access will be closed until the publisher embargo period elapses.

Policy Overview (3)

- If the journal or publisher does not support OA, the following strategies must be applied:
 - Use [SHERPA Request Template](#) when contacting publishers to ask permission to publish the work in OA.
 - Use [SPARC Author Addendum](#) which is a proposed modification to the standard publishing agreement giving the author permission to publish in OA.
- For the purpose of individual or institutional evaluation, the UoM will only consider as publications those whose metadata and full-text are deposited on OAR@UoM.

Policy Overview (4)

- The researcher must be aware of copyright obligations when signing contractual agreement with academic publishers.
- The researcher is responsible for the agreements including copyright arrangement with the publisher. Therefore, it is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that any arrangements with publishers are in conformity with the UoM OA policy.
- When an APC is paid, researchers must ensure that the paper is made available under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC– BY) license.
- The UoM strongly recommends that data sets are made available in OA. Data sets containing sensitive/confidential data can be placed in closed access.

Support & Monitoring

- Provide the necessary human resources and the required infrastructure for the support of the OA policy.
- Enable the adoption of OA through the organisation of seminars, events, awareness and training sessions on OA issues.
- Monitor policy compliance by comparing the content of the repository with information gathered from indexing services.
- Provide links and interoperability with other databases and search engines e.g. Google Scholar.

Difficulties Encountered

- Limited HR
- Lack of Expertise
- Insularity
- Workflow analysis

Lessons Learnt

- Variances and similarities between policies
- Motivation of academics/researchers
- Culture change – involve all stakeholders
- Marketing campaign
- Policy review
- Significant resources
- Establish workflows prior policy implementation

What is being done?

- Modifying policy following feedback received from University of Minho/PASTEUR4OA
- Forward the policy to the UoM Legal Office
- Discuss OA policy with Rectorate

What's Next?

- Present the OA policy to the Library Committee
- Present the OA policy to UoM Senate
- Gather feedback from UoM Senate Members
- Approval of policy by UoM Senate – Implementation
- Support MCST with the drafting of a National OA Policy



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Thank you

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