



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Livestock

# A SHORT GUIDE TO OPEN ACCESS

for the Livestock CRP

Mbeya, Tanzania. Photo ILRI/K. Dhanji

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Alliance



# Introduction

This is a guide to improving 'Open Access' for journal publications (and other deliverables) as one of several indicators assessed in the CRP annual reporting. It outlines the available options and resources available for making peer reviewed publications and other research related outputs freely available online. Researchers should be aware of the [CGIAR open access and data management policy](#) that expects all CGIAR related publications and data to be open access. Importantly, **researchers who co-author or create the publications and data have primary responsibility** for meeting this expectation and should seek support from their research managers and institution as needed. A critical step is to ensure all information products, including journal publications and research data are uploaded in the appropriate repository.

## *Lack of funding is no longer an acceptable excuse!*

Lack of funding is often cited as a constraint to making an output open access. As explained below, there are options available that do not require extra funding. Researchers should also consult with their research managers as there may actually be resources available to support open access that the researcher does not know about.

# Journal publications

When publishing there are two main options for Open Access to consider:

## 1. **Gold Open Access**

- Means **immediate, unrestricted online access** to the published article
- Requires an additional **Article Processing Charge (APC)** to be paid to the journal publisher.
  - Most academic journal publishers (Wiley, Elsevier, Sage, Springer, Taylor & Francis, and BioMed Central, among others) give authors the option to pay a fee for this premium brand of open access.
- Work is normally published under a **Creative Commons 'Attribution' licence (CC BY)** when an Article Processing Charge (APC) is paid.
  - This allows others to download and share the article at no cost.

## 2. **Green Open Access**

- Requires deposit of the **Author's Accepted Manuscript in a repository**, upon acceptance by the journal. This is achieved through deposit of the Accepted Manuscript (the final, peer reviewed edit of your paper, without the publisher's formatting/typeset/etc.) in CGSpace or MELSpace.
- The accepted manuscript is made **available online free of charge** (without payment of an APC) often following a specified embargo period — CGSpace/MELSpace curators can manage any embargo requirements as needed.
- With this type of access, use of a journal article's content is only permitted within the confines of the legal restrictions of copyright law.

## Why consider Green OA?

This excerpt from a recent article by [Ed Yong \(2020\)](#) on “How Science Beat the Virus” demonstrates how Green open access is quickly gaining ground as a standard practice among cutting-edge scientists, especially given that it can accelerate access to research findings by other researchers — *“Fast-forming alliances could work at breakneck speed because many researchers had spent the past few decades transforming science from a plodding, cloistered endeavor into something nimbler and more transparent. Traditionally, a scientist submits her paper to a journal, which sends it to a (surprisingly small) group of peers for (several rounds of usually anonymous) comments; if the paper passes this (typically months-long) peer-review gantlet, it is published (often behind an expensive paywall). Languid and opaque, this system is ill-suited to a fast-moving outbreak. But biomedical scientists can now upload preliminary versions of their papers, or “preprints,” to freely accessible websites, allowing others to immediately dissect and build upon their results. This practice had been slowly gaining popularity before 2020 but proved so vital for sharing information about COVID-19 that it will likely become a mainstay of modern biomedical research. Preprints accelerate science, and the pandemic accelerated the use of preprints. At the start of the year, one repository, medRxiv (pronounced “med archive”), held about 1,000 preprints. By the end of October, it had more than 12,000.”*

When choosing a journal to publish in:

- Under CGIAR and most individual center open access guidelines, scientists are strongly advised to budget for open access costs within projects or their CRP flagship so they can pay for **Gold Open Access**. If such funds have not been allocated or are unavailable, the CRP PMU may have funds reserved for this purpose. Note that for BMGF-funded projects, the Foundation provides a [mechanism to pay the costs](#) of accepted journal articles.
- Where **Gold Open Access** is not possible, either because the journal does not allow it or because there are no funds available, scientists must follow the **Green Open-Access** approach. To ensure this approach is used, and to improve open access status accuracy during CRP reporting and quality assessment:
  - Lists of journal article outputs should be regularly reviewed by flagship administrators and followed up with CRP authors to confirm open-access status;
  - Flagship leaders should remind scientists of their open access roles and responsibilities, including uploading copies of final manuscript, for **Green Open-Access**.
- Contacts for further assistance in uploading authors’ final version of manuscript:
  - Abenet Yabowork (ILRI CKM)
  - Embedded Program communications staff (ILRI)
  - Elizabeth Campillo (CIAT)
  - Enrico Bonaiuti (ICARDA)
  - Mireille Ferrari (Livestock CRP)

## Other publications

### Project reports, Research reports, Briefs etc.

- For other types of publications including reports, publications, manuals, presentations and posters, scientists should follow the official guidelines of their institute. Templates by CGIAR and the CRP normally include the appropriate licenses and staff in the communications/publishing teams can ensure all products are deposited in the repositories.
- For more information contact your knowledge management / publication teams (contacts above).

### Data

- Non-confidential datasets should be published as open access.
- They can be deposited in institutional data repositories (ILRI, ICARDA, CIAT), in partner or journal repositories, providing they have the appropriate FAIR requirements. Where linked to publications, ensure that there is a link to the publication in the repository and vice-versa.
- Resources on how to make non-confidential data open access can be accessed [here](#) or contact Harrison Njamba (ILRI), Pietro Bartolini (ICARDA) or Leroy Mwanzia (CIAT) for assistance.

### Software

- For software, the associated source code must be deposited in a free/open software archive upon completion of the software development e.g. [ILRI's github](#).
- For more information on how to make software open access contact Alan Orth (ILRI).

Additional resources for the above can be found at: <https://www.ilri.org/open>.

### Deliverables/Publications during CRP Annual Reporting

- Lists of information products for review can be generated and downloaded from AREs: <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/explorer>
- The flagship administrators should confirm the completeness of information of deliverables, and particularly:
  - On the Dissemination and Metadata tab:
    - Ensure the correct dissemination URL is typed;
    - Confirm open access status of deliverables (remember where a publication is Green Open Access, capture it as Open Access).
  - On the prefilled field of deliverable metadata:
    - Check completeness of the doi link - present doi as a hyperlink (i.e., beginning with "https:");
- Ensure correct tagging of ISI journals (verifying peer reviewed journals) and for acknowledgement of Livestock CRP.

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