

Open Access Policy

Background

Free access to research results accelerates scientific innovation and increases the visibility of research findings. Thus, Open Access maximizes the benefits of publicly funded research by enhancing direct scientific exchange. This policy refers to scientific publications such as articles in scientific journals, book chapters, monographs and contributions to edited volumes.

Research data is also a valuable public resource. The Research Data Service at the ZMT offers ZMT scientists and their tropical partners various services and products that support the collection, processing and publication of research data. The ZMT has a [Research Data Policy](#).

As a member of the Leibniz Association, the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) is committed to Open Access. Collaboration with partners in the tropics is central to the ZMT's mission. For this reason, there is a particular interest in making scientific knowledge freely accessible on an international scale. ZMT follows the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"¹ and the "Open Access Policy of the Leibniz Association"².

The new orientation of the scholarly publication system towards openness supports the goals of the *Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)*³. The **CoARA** initiative aims to reform research assessment practices. Both movements want to return control of scientific communication to researchers and their communities.

¹Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. 2003. <https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

²Leibniz-Gemeinschaft. Open Access Policy. 2020. https://www.leibniz-gemeinschaft.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Bilder_und_Downloads/Forschung/Open_Science/Open_Access_Policy_web.pdf

³CoARA - Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment 2023 <https://coara.eu>

Recommendations and Commitments

ZMT encourages its scientists to publish their research results in Open Access without embargo periods whenever this is possible within the legal framework. Immediate, free access to research results is also a key concern of the European Commission (Horizon Europe Projects⁴) and other third-party funders.

Quality Control

Quality assurance plays an important role in scientific publications. ZMT recommends that its scientists choose a publication channel that ensures the quality of the publications through a professional review process (e.g. peer review).

Open Access License

Regarding open access license⁵, ZMT recommends that scientists assign the *Creative Commons (CC) BY*⁶ license to all publications that are immediately available in Open Access. The *Creative Commons (CC) BY* license allows content to be reproduced, distributed, publicly displayed, and edited, as long as the author is properly credited. It is a very permissive license that encourages widespread use and distribution of publications.

Third-party funding and Funding Acknowledgements

ZMT strongly encourages its scientists to cover publication costs through third-party funding, provided that the funding agency allows for project-specific funds to be used for this purpose.

⁴ Dahan, Danielle. 'Guide to Open Access in Horizon Europe'. *Enspire Science Ltd.* (blog). 2019. <https://enspire.science/guide-to-open-access-in-horizon-europe/>

⁵ Open- Access licenses specify a set of permissions and restrictions that govern how a published work can be used, shared, and modified by others.

⁶ Creative Commons License. 2024. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ZMT scientists are encouraged to make it clear in their publications in which project or third-party funding context the work was created.

It is important that this information ("Funding Acknowledgments") is complete so that it will be correctly recorded in databases such as the Web of Science. This assures that the bibliometric analyses and evaluations that are based on this data are correct.

Cataloging

ZMT scientists, affiliated doctoral candidates and students are obligated to support the metadata creation and archiving of their scientific publications in the ZMT internal repository. This activity is coordinated by the library.

Financing

ZMT finances Open Access publishing for its affiliated scientists in various ways. Information on memberships and contracts that cover publication fees are available through the library.

In addition to funding via contracts and third-party funds, ZMT pays publication fees for publications in quality-controlled⁷ Fully Open Access journals⁸. Centralized financing of publication costs ensures that publishing in high quality journals is not cost prohibited for ZMT affiliated scientists.

The library staff provides information to ZMT researchers on funding options regarding Open Access publication fees.

Contact person: Clara Bruns

⁷ For ZMT affiliated first authors or corresponding authors, the publication costs for all publications in journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) are paid by ZMT.

⁸ Gold Open Access, or Fully Open Access journals are completely open. The articles published in these journals are immediately and freely available.