

Open Access Policy

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1. Purpose

- a. [Open access](#) ensures that Flinders University [research outputs](#) are available to the widest possible audience, which:
 - i. contributes to the University being recognised as a world leader in research,
 - ii. raises the profile of researchers and potentially increases citations and collaboration opportunities,
 - iii. accelerates the pace and maximises the impact of research,
 - iv. enables public access to the outcomes of publicly funded research, and
 - v. promotes transparency and builds trust in research within the broader community.
- b. Open access supports Principle 3 and Researcher Responsibilities 23 of the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), as adopted by the University [Research Integrity Policy](#) and set out below:

P3 Transparency in declaring interests and reporting research methodology, data and findings

- Share and communicate research methodology, data and findings openly, responsibly and accurately.
- Disclose and manage conflicts of interest.

R23 Disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately and broadly. Where necessary, take action to correct the record in a timely manner

- c. This policy affirms the University's commitment to open access.

2. Scope

- a. This policy applies to all researchers at the University, namely:
 - i. all staff
 - ii. all academic status holders in respect of their Flinders University-related research output, and
 - iii. all higher degree by research (HDR) students.
- b. This policy applies to all research outputs (including non-traditional research outputs).
- c. Research funders, including the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council, have open access policies that may impose additional obligations in respect to research outputs resulting from grant funding. This policy does not replicate the details of these

requirements and researchers are responsible for ensuring that conditions specific to their grant funding are met.

3. Definitions

open access	refers to the availability of research outputs via the internet, such that any user can find, freely access, read, share and reuse the research output. Sharing and reuse is facilitated through open licensing. ¹
open licensing	Use of free licences (usually Creative Commons licences) that let the owner of a work indicate clearly under what conditions the work can be reused and shared, and that reuse requires full and proper attribution. ²
persistent identifier	Globally unique label that is maintained over time that identifies and resolves to a digital entity —examples of persistent identifiers include Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) for research outputs, Open Researcher and Contributor IDs (ORCID) for individual researchers, and Research Organization Registry Identifiers (ROR) for research organisations.
research output	communicates or makes available the findings of research that may be in hardcopy, electronic or other form —examples of research outputs include journal articles, book chapters, books, conference papers, conference/oral presentations, reports, HDR theses, datasets, patents and patent applications, software, born-digital objects, performances, videos, audio visual outputs, and exhibitions.

4. Policy statement

4.1. Research outputs are as open as possible

- a. Researchers are required to maximise the openness of their research outputs and apply the FAIR principles. That is, research outputs are:
 - i. Findable, e.g., have open metadata and [persistent identifiers](#)
 - ii. Accessible, e.g., are available from a publicly accessible repository or publisher site
 - iii. Interoperable, e.g., comply with formatting and referencing standards, and
 - iv. Reusable, e.g., are [openly licensed](#).
- b. In addition to the final research output, researchers are encouraged to make all ancillary research outputs, such as protocols, datasets, and code open access where possible.

¹ [NHMRC Open Access Policy](#), Canberra: National Health and Medical Research Council (2022), [CC BY 4.0](#)

² *ibid.*

4.2. Restrictions on open access

- a. Access to research outputs may be restricted when required to protect:
 - i. human rights
 - ii. national security
 - iii. confidentiality
 - iv. right to privacy and respect of human subjects of study
 - v. legal process and public order
 - vi. intellectual property rights
 - vii. contractual agreements
 - viii. personal information
 - ix. sacred and secret Indigenous knowledge, and
 - x. rare, threatened or endangered species.³
- b. Any access restrictions must be proportionate, justified, and removed when no longer required.
- c. If access restrictions to research outputs are necessary, other dissemination options are to be adopted when possible. This could include providing mediated access, making anonymous or pseudonymous data available, or sharing research summaries, press releases, blog posts or visual abstracts.

5. Supporting procedures

Supporting procedures are part of this policy and provide additional detail to give practical effect to the policy principles.

[Open Access Procedures](#)

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Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
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* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy or procedures still apply beyond the review date.

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³ [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#), Paris: UNESCO (2021), [CC BY-SA 3.0 IGO](#)