Open Access Policy for CERN Physics Publications

CERN is committed to Open Access, it represents values written in our Convention sixty years ago, and it is increasingly important for our Member States. For over twenty years, most of our Physics publications have been immediately available online as CERN-PH-TH or CERN-PH-EP preprints before publication in journals. This is generally called “Green” Open Access.

“Gold” Open Access journals go a step further and make articles available to readers free of charge. These journals are financed by a per-article fee, called Article-Processing Charge. Through 2013, the Scientific Information Service has centrally covered such fees for certain journals. In addition, thanks to partnerships with most publishers, all LHC experimental articles have been published as Gold Open Access since 2010.

As of January 2014, CERN and international partners in over 38 countries launched the SCOAP3 initiative, which has converted to Gold Open Access most journals in the field at no cost for any author worldwide. Recently, CERN and the American Physical Society (APS) announced a partnership1 to publish all CERN articles in APS journals Gold Open Access in 2015 and 2016.

CERN authors2 are now requested to publish all their results Gold Open Access.

While all LHC physics articles are Gold Open Access, only 60% of CERN physics results were published as Gold Open Access in 2013. Thanks to the SCOAP3 initiative and the additional partnership with APS this figure will rise to 90-95% in 2015. CERN now aims to reach 100% Gold Open Access for all its original High-Energy Physics results3, experimental and theoretical, by the end of 2016.

The easiest way to publish Gold Open Access is to prefer journals covered by SCOAP34 [http://scoap3.org/SCOAP3journals] or through Open Access arrangements where no additional fee should be paid by CERN. The Scientific Information Service can help to understand the situation.

When circumstances require publication in any other journal, Open Access fees can be paid with funds external to CERN, e.g. E.U. projects. Where this is not possible, authors are requested to get permission from their Department Head.

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2 CERN Operational Circular 6 defines “CERN Author (of a particular document) [as] any author of that document who, at the time the work described was carried out, was either: Staff member or Fellow (Staff Rules, Article I 2.02 a), not on special leave (Staff Regulations, Article R II 4.29) or Associated member of the personnel (Staff Rules, Article I 2.02 b) allowed by his Division Leader to use CERN as his affiliation on the document.” [https://cds.cern.ch/record/1202777/files/CERN_Circ_Op_en_06.pdf]
3 Gold Open Access in the field of Instrumentation, as for reviews and proceedings, is emerging, and the Scientific Information Service is working on possible opportunities. Authors are recommended to contact the Service to be informed as options become available.