Open Access Policy for CERN Publications

CERN is committed to Open Access, as it reflects values that have been enshrined in our Convention for more than sixty years and is becoming increasingly important for the Member States, the European Commission and other institutional partners across the world. For over twenty years, most of CERN’s physics publications have been made immediately and openly accessible online, in the form of CERN preprints, before publication in journals. This is generally known as “Green” Open Access.

“Gold” Open Access journals make peer-reviewed articles available to readers free of charge. Such journals are generally financed by a publishing fee for each article, known as the Article-Processing Charge (APC). Up until 2013, the CERN Scientific Information Service covered such fees for certain journals centrally. Thanks to partnerships with most of the major publishing houses, articles by the LHC collaborations on experimental results have systematically been published Gold Open Access since 2010.

In January 2014, CERN and international partners in nearly 50 countries launched the SCOAP3 initiative, which has converted most journals in the field to Gold Open Access at no cost for authors worldwide. SCOAP3 has now been extended up until at least 2019 and from January 2018 onwards will cover about 90% of high-energy physic articles.

CERN authors are expected to publish all their results Gold Open Access.

CERN is aiming to reach full Gold Open Access publication by the end of 2017 for its original high-energy physics results, whether experimental or theoretical, and for its publications in related fields such as instrumentation, scientific computing and accelerator physics.

CERN authors should publish, wherever possible, in journals covered by SCOAP3. When circumstances require publication in journals that are not covered by SCOAP3, the Open Access fees must be covered by funds from outside the CERN Budget, e.g. EU projects or provided by other institutions. Where this is not possible, authors may request special permission and funds from their Department Head.

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3. 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]
4. As from 2017, Open Access for conference proceedings is encouraged, but not required, and no dedicated budget is allocated. The Scientific Information Service can support conference organisers in identifying cost-effective opportunities for publishing entire proceedings Open Access.
6. The Scientific Information Service can assist in the process. Further details can be found here: https://library.web.cern.ch/oa/where-publish