

# **Open Access (OA) in the UK: a long and winding road**

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## Open Access in the UK

- Where are we now?
- Who cares?
- What's stopping us?
- What next?

## Where are we now?

- 42 UK institutions have policy statements on open access publishing (August 2010)
  - 28 Universities
  - 9 Government bodies (mainly funding councils)
  - Independent research funders e.g. Cancer Research

[www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/](http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/)

## **SHERPA**

- Develops open access repositories in universities to facilitate the rapid and efficient dissemination of research

[www.sherpa.ac.uk](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk)

Award winning SHERPA is investigating issues in the future of scholarly communication. It is developing [open-access](#) institutional repositories in universities to facilitate the rapid and efficient worldwide dissemination of research. SHERPA services and the [SHERPA Partnership](#) are both based at the [Centre for Research Communications](#) at the University of Nottingham.

## SHERPA Services

- [RoMEO](#) - Publisher's copyright & archiving policies
- [JULIET](#) - Research funders archiving mandates and guidelines
- [OpenDOAR](#) worldwide Directory of Open Access Repositories
- [SHERPA Search](#) - simple full-text search of UK repositories

## SHERPA Resources

- [SHERPA speaking events](#) - for future events see [CRC](#)
- [Guidance](#) on depositing material; copyright; and [open access for authors](#)
- [Advocacy Materials](#) for administrators, including past SHERPA presentations
- [Links](#) to other initiatives and related background information

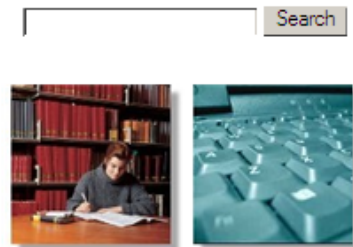
## Current SHERPA & Allied Projects

The SHERPA services and partnership are based at the Centre for Research Communications at the University of Nottingham. For more information on current projects see the [CRC website](#).

## Completed SHERPA & Allied Projects

- [SHERPA Project](#) - which helped develop archives in research-led institutions
- [SHERPA Plus](#) - expanding the repository network in the UK
- [SHERPA DP](#) and [DP 2](#) - looking at preservation models
- [PROSPERO](#) - scoping [The Depot](#) keep-safe service
- [EThOS](#) - developing a national eTheses service
- [Copyright Knowledge Bank](#) - copyright investigation
- [DRIVER](#) - developing a cross-European repository network infrastructure
- [Intute: Repository Search](#) - searches across 90 UK academic repositories
- [The Depot](#) a keep-safe repository for UK academics
- [RSP \(phase I\)](#) - support service for UK repository growth - [current RSP Phase II](#)

SHERPA-S: *Securing a Hybrid Environment for Research Preservation and Access*



Set your research free  
As flowers offer nectar  
To the passing bee  
*Miggie Pickton*  
*University of Northampton, UK*

## News

- [Norsk RoMEO](#)
- [JISC InfoKit on repositories](#)
- [OpenAIRE](#)
- [RoMEO reaches 700 Publishers](#)
- [more news...](#)

## Jobs

- [Senior Assistant Librarian: Repository and Digital Media Management](#)

## Funders



We gratefully acknowledge the generous support given to SHERPA projects by our funders

SHERPA is hosted by the [University of Nottingham](#)

## OpenDOAR

- 1700 + repositories world wide
  - Germany 141
  - UK 176

[www.opendoar.org](http://www.opendoar.org)

## **Imperial College and open access: the story so far**

- Institutional repository - Spiral
- Slow but sure progress towards mandate for deposit of research publications

## **Imperial College : Institutional repository**

SPIRAL (<http://spiral.imperial.ac.uk/>)

- Launched 2008
- Fully linked with other College systems
- Full text holdings
- 4086 items – approximately half MSc theses  
other half 50% PhD theses  
and other publications



## Imperial College Digital Repository **Spiral**

Not all publications are available to view. For a full list of publications by a specific author please search the [College Directory](#)



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Spiral - Imperial College Digital Repository >

### WELCOME TO SPIRAL

#### More information

You can find more information on a number of areas, including copyright questions at the [Spiral Website](#)

If you are an Imperial College academic or researcher and interested in adding full text versions of your work to Spiral, please log in to the [Publications System](#)

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### Spiral

Welcome to Spiral, the Digital Repository for research output of Imperial College

Spiral primarily contains full text peer-reviewed versions of journal articles and conference papers produced by academic staff of Imperial College London, as well as PhD theses by students of Imperial College London.

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[Imperial College Business School](#) [1855]

## **So far so good but ...**

why are our repositories still underpopulated?

- Reluctance of academics
- Difficult to enforce compliance
- Take up varies by discipline and institution

## **Many academics remain wary**

- Concern about their research profile and career prospects
- Reluctance to move from traditional model
- Uncertainty about copyright issues
- Fear of extra work

## **Meanwhile some publishers ...**

- are scared!
- fail to embrace new model
- apparently unconvinced of the value of OA publishing

## **The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC )**

- Fully committed to open access from the outset
- Substantial investment in advocacy and practical initiatives to promote open access in the UK
- Uneasy relationship with publishers

[www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/topics/opentechnologies/openaccess/](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/topics/opentechnologies/openaccess/)

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## Open Access

Open Access enhances scholarly communication by making the results of publicly funded research available to all.

### Why Open Access?

Opening the knowledge base to all means more researchers can build on it and there is less duplication of effort. Researchers can reach a greater audience and find that their work is more widely read and cited, institutions gain an enhanced reputation as their research becomes more visible, funding agencies see a greater return on their investment, and publishers find that the impact of their journals increases.

As a result, publicly-funded research has more impact and society as a whole benefits.

JISC has been at the forefront of the Open Access debate from the very beginning. In the UK it is supporting institutions in the move to greater Open Access by funding programmes to build and enhance institutional Open Access repositories. It is helping researchers to use those repositories more effectively, and making it easier for them to do so through technology. JISC is also working with publishers to explore new business models for Open Access scholarly communications. Internationally, JISC is engaging with the wider academic research community and with policy-makers to transform attitudes towards Open Access within Europe and beyond.

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### JISC Open Access vision

Open Access is free online access to the outputs of publicly funded research. It is typically focused on peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers.

Open Access benefits UK research, by increasing its impact and enabling researchers to use any such outputs they might need for their work.

Open Access benefits the UK economy by enabling innovation, policy and practice better to draw from rigorous academic research.

JISC strongly supports Open Access and encourages authors to publish in Open Access journals, self-archive their articles in repositories, or both.

JISC acknowledges that there are reasons why Open Access has not become universal, and that cultural change, policy development, technical infrastructure and sustainable business models are all needed in a transition to Open Access.

Open Access is part of a broader move toward more 'open' approaches in higher and further education. JISC supports the development and sharing of Open Educational Resources, is exploring open Open Access to monographs, and promotes open data where appropriate, allowing for complex issues (for example, of consent).



**Find out more**

**Researchers and institutions**

How Open Access benefits researchers and research institutions and read JISC research

## **Research Funders**

- Funding context more difficult than ever
- Need for transparency and accountability

All UK Research Councils now have open access policies

## **By way of example**

### Wellcome Trust

- Major funder of scientific and medical research
- Explicit requirement to make Wellcome-funded research freely available and will pay open access publication fees if necessary

[www.wellcome.ac.uk/index.htm](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/index.htm)



## **As libraries ...**

we are doing all we can to promote and support OA because

- We believe in the free flow of information
- Ever rising journal subscriptions are unaffordable

## Major obstacles

- Some publishers' opposition
- Researchers' inertia
- Perceived difficulty of transition from traditional to new model

## **Next steps (1)**

- Targeted lobbying about the long term benefits of OA
- Wholesale move to e-only licences
- Improved metadata for scholarly communication

## Next steps (2)

- Honesty about the real costs:  
OPEN ACCESS doesn't mean FREE!
- Robust funding for OA (green or gold?)
- Reliable metrics to demonstrate benefits of OA to the UK research community
- Credible strategy for transition to OA

Patience – this will not happen overnight

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## JISC

[www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/topics/opentechnologies/openaccess/](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/topics/opentechnologies/openaccess/)

## WELLCOME

[www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/)

## RIN

[www.rin.ac.uk/category/tags/open-access](http://www.rin.ac.uk/category/tags/open-access)

## IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

[www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjectsandsupport/openaccess](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/subjectsandsupport/openaccess)

## SHERPA

[www.sherpa.ac.uk](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk)

## SPARC Europe

[www.sparceurope.org](http://www.sparceurope.org)