Dartmouth Faculty Open Access Policy Resolution: Increase Impact Through an Open Repository for Dartmouth Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I find the Dartmouth Faculty Open Access Policy Resolution?

The faculty Council on the Libraries developed the policy for consideration by faculty across campus; the policy and associated materials are on the Council on the Libraries web page under Current Topics.

2. What materials are covered?

The final peer reviewed, pre-published version of the scholarly articles authored by Dartmouth faculty are specified in the open access policy. For this purpose, “scholarly articles” are defined as works describing the outcome of scholarly study or research that are produced with no expectation of payment, such as those usually made available through peer-reviewed scholarly journals and conference proceedings. Although scholarly articles of this nature are specified, this does not prevent an author from making other kinds of material open access using the infrastructure built to provide access to articles under this policy. The policy applies to articles submitted for publication after adoption of the policy.

3. How does this apply to co-authored papers?

Each author of an article holds copyright in the article individually, so any author of a co-authored paper can assign the prior license without getting permission from the other co-authors. It is not necessary to get permission from each co-author; however, the co-authors are encouraged to communicate about the policy. If a co-author prefers not to have the article available under this policy, the author can choose to ask for a waiver.

4. What if the publisher objects to my having transferred a license to Dartmouth before signing the copyright transfer agreement with the publisher of my journal article?

Publishers often allow authors rights to post the final peer reviewed version of their articles on open access repositories, so this is not usually an issue at all. In the few cases where the publisher asks the author to waive the Dartmouth Faculty Open Access policy for the article, a waiver is automatically granted via an email request. This is covered in the "opt out" part of the policy. In rare circumstances, a faculty member who writes on highly sensitive topics may request a general waiver, to be adjudicated by his or her department chair.

5. How does this policy relate to open access publishing?

This policy addresses providing access to articles that are published in a wide variety of outlets with different business models. It does not require an author to choose an open access journal or to pay the additional fees required by some publishers to make an individual article open access.

6. How will this policy work?

- You submit your article to the journal of your choice (you own all the copyrights until you transfer these to the publisher)
- After the peer review process is finished and the paper accepted, you sign the copyright transfer agreement (under the Dartmouth Open Access policy, you have already retained rights to your final peer reviewed version)
• You forward your final, peer-reviewed, pre-published article to a designated e-mail address but if that version is already available in a repository, it will be gathered directly from that source.
• In the rare cases where the publisher asks that the policy be waived for this article, you send the article information to an email address and automatically receive a letter that you have waived your rights under the Dartmouth faculty Open Access policy for this article.
• In the many cases where the publisher asks authors to embargo posting their articles for a given period of time, no action is required on your part. Those embargoes will be honored automatically.
• The final peer reviewed version of the article will be made available to the public through the Dartmouth digital infrastructure developed for promoting scholarly work at Dartmouth.

7. Can I opt out or have an embargo on access to my article?

Yes, a waiver for a particular articles is automatically granted. This means you opt out of the faculty policy for a specific work. If the publisher has a set embargo period, access to the article will automatically be made unavailable for the period of the embargo.

8. What kinds of uses are covered under the Dartmouth Faculty Open Access Policy?

Dartmouth cannot sell the articles, so for example Dartmouth cannot created a course pack for sale out of the articles made open access by this policy. The faculty will advise on the specific implementation, including uses made of the materials.

9. I use images and other media in my articles, and often have to pay for permission to use these. Do I have to pay again to have my complete article made openly available under this policy?

No, you do not have to seek permissions again, since any arrangements for materials in your articles continue to apply under the open access policy.

10. If I am no longer at Dartmouth, will I be able to remove my article?

Your prior license with Dartmouth still exists, but policies about retention of the actual articles will be developed with input from faculty.

11. I already put the final peer-reviewed version of my article into the open access PubMedCentral due to grant requirements. Will I have to follow a similar process for this?

No, the implementation of the policy will be done such that the faculty have no extra steps to take unless a waiver is requested.

12. I already put my paper in an open access repository (arXiv.org or Repec are examples). Do I have to do that again for this policy?

No, the implementation of the policy will be done such that the faculty have no extra steps to take unless a waiver is requested.

13. Have there been legal challenges to this kind of policy?

No, since there is a solid legal and contractual basis for this kind of faculty open access policy, including the transfer of copyright and restraint of trade questions.
14. How can I learn more? Ask your liaison librarian to meet with your department or send questions via email. More background materials are linked at the Council on the Libraries web page.