DRAFT Open Access Policy for Discussion

October 28, 2021

Submitted for consultation by the Provost's Task Force on Open Access and Scholarly Communication

For more information see: https://www.lib.uwo.ca/scholarship/task_force.html

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Preamble

Western's community of scholars is committed to creating, disseminating and applying knowledge for the benefit of society through excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship. Western University is committed to the democratization of knowledge through open access and recognizes that open research and open scholarship practices foster collaborative, community-engaged, reproducible, and impactful scholarship.

Freely sharing research with the public reflects Western's responsibility and commitment to return research outputs to the public as a publicly funded institution. Open access accelerates discovery across the disciplines and increases the visibility and impact of Western's research. It facilitates connections and collaborations between scholars and strengthens the rigour of published research by ensuring it is available for scrutiny by all, enabling scholars from all sectors, policymakers, and the public to use and build on this knowledge.

University community members maintain full control of their intellectual property, and in some cases may choose not to share their work in an open access repository. Individual members of the University community may opt-out of this policy using the form made available by Western Libraries.

The purpose of this policy is to affirm the University community's commitment to the principles of open access. This Policy also aligns with and supports members of the University community in complying with the Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications.

Policy

Members of the University community commit to openly share the products of research and scholarship. To do so, University community members agree to publish in open access publications and/or deposit scholarly work in Western's open access institutional repository, Scholarship@Western, or in a disciplinary repository, such as arXiv, as early as possible, ideally sometime between the date of acceptance and the date of publication. If applicable, access to the file in question can be suppressed for a period of time in order to meet publisher, patenting or granting body requirements.

To facilitate the dissemination and archiving of research outputs, the university will undertake work to archive, preserve, reproduce, and freely disseminate an electronic copy of all scholarly journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers, all with proper attribution, and for non-commercial purposes only. Western's scholars grant the university, where needed, non-exclusive rights to do so.

Scope

This Policy applies to journal articles, book chapters, and conference papers produced by any member of the University community subsequent to the adoption of this Policy. The policy does not apply to textbooks, monographs, or other non-listed works. In addition to these types of scholarly outputs, authors are urged to deposit into the institutional repository all their scholarly works, regardless of format, in order to enhance visibility, impact, and preservation of these research outputs. Authors are urged to deposit their research data as well in an appropriate data repository.

This Policy recognizes that not all research outputs are appropriate to be shared openly because of legal, cultural, ethical, or privacy concerns, including, at times, traditional and indigenous knowledges.

Policy Administration and Review

This policy is intended to encourage open access to scholarly work and strengthen author rights, and to encourage members of the university community to be actively informed of their rights as scholars, and Western Libraries is available to consult with authors on publishing and rights retention issues. This policy is to be read and interpreted in a manner consistent with relevant collective agreements and University policies related to academic freedom and intellectual property. Any applicable collective agreement between the University and its Members shall take priority over this Policy in the event of any conflict in terms and conditions or definitions. Additionally, this policy is not intended to alter MAPP 7.16 on Intellectual Property in any way. This policy comes into force on [date] and applies to all applicable works published after this date.

Western Libraries has responsibility for the oversight of Scholarship@Western. Oversight includes preservation and dissemination of scholarship submitted to the repository to assist members of the University community in meeting the open access policy requirements.

The Provost will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application vis a vis any other existing University policy, and recommending changes to the policy to the appropriate university body as necessary.