

SI'S PUBLIC ACCESS PLAN FAQ

FOR SMITHSONIAN ACADEMIC APPOINTEES

Fellows, Interns, and Research Associates

What is “public” access?

Public access is the idea that the results of federally supported research should be accessible to the public at no cost. In response to a February 2013 memo issued by the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy, federal agencies developed plans to increase access to the results of federally funded research, specifically to publications and supporting data. SI’s Public Access Plan (at <https://interdisciplinary.si.edu/collaboration-highlights/public-access/>) has been in effect since October 1, 2015 and applies to all fields in which the Smithsonian conducts research, including but not limited to the fields of science, history, art, and culture.

Is it the same as “open” access?

No. *Open access* (OA) is a publishing business model where an author (or his/her institution) pays fees to a publisher up front so the published version of a work – the Version of Record (VOR) – will be immediately available online for no charge.

Public access is the practice of making an Accepted Manuscript (AM), or the VOR if permitted by the publisher, available online for no charge, but only after publication of the VOR plus an embargo period (e.g., 12 months).

How do I know if my publication is subject to the Plan?

Any publication resulting from your Smithsonian-based research is subject to SI’s Public Access Plan if (1) it is a peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter **and** (2) your academic appointment is/was supported, in whole or in part, by SI federal funds in the form of a stipend or use of SI collections, labs, and/or equipment. If you don’t know if federal funds support(ed) your academic appointment, contact the Office of Fellowships and Internships at siofi@si.edu.

Are any publications exempt from the Plan?

Yes. “Excluded Materials” and manuscripts and data excepted due to demonstrated special circumstance are exempt. See the Plan for more details.

Does the Plan require me to publish in an OA journal?

No. SI does not require you publish OA. If you publish in an OA journal, be aware of a few differences:

- 1) Articles published in OA journals are immediately available, thus not subject to an embargo period.
- 2) Authors are responsible for all fees associated with OA publication.
- 3) If an author elects to publish in a journal that is not automatically OA but the publisher offers an OA option for a fee, an author is not required to accept the offer.
- 4) SRO (Smithsonian Libraries’ repository) will link to the VOR after online publication.
- 5) For faster linking by SRO, when possible an author should provide the link to SIL.

Will public access make it more difficult for me to publish with important journals?

No. Public access is mandatory for research funded through all major federal granting agencies (e.g., NASA, NSF, DOE). Most publishers and journals are aware of the mandate and are already implementing procedures or standard terms to permit release of AM after embargo.

To comply, should I follow the SI-employee requirement and submit a “public access ticket”?

No. As an academic appointee, you must sign your own publishing agreements. Only if you have an SI employee co-author may you put your publication through SISP’s ticket procedure.

How do I comply with SI’s Public Access Plan?

If your research results are subject to SI’s Plan, please comply by doing the following:

- 1) Identify Smithsonian as a funder, both in your acknowledgments and when requested by publisher.
- 2) Ensure the publishing contract or the publisher’s standard terms and conditions permit you to make the AM publicly accessible through one or more non-commercial Smithsonian-approved repositories after publication plus an embargo period of 12 months.
- 3) Deposit your AM in a Smithsonian-approved repository (see below), so it is made available no earlier than 12 months after publication.

Which repositories are Smithsonian-approved?

Smithsonian-approved:

- Publisher sites of CHORUS Publisher Members (<https://www.chorusaccess.org/about/our-members>)
- Repositories operated by the U.S. Government and its agencies
- Repositories mandated in a federal grant or contract
- Repositories designated by federal agencies through Public Access Plans (e.g., PubMed Central, PAGES)

If you are an active academic appointee with SI-network access, you may also deposit to Smithsonian’s primary repository for AMs, Smithsonian Research Online (SRO) – <http://research.si.edu>

LOOKING FOR A PUBLISHER?

Smithsonian Fellows and Research Associates are eligible to submit scholarly manuscripts to Smithsonian Scholarly Press (SISP) for consideration. SISP is an internal, full-services publisher that produces peer-reviewed publications resulting from SI research. SISP publishes open access monographs and edited collections, as well as commercial scholarly books. Because SISP administers public access for the Institution, if SISP is your publisher, compliance with SI’s Public Access Plan is managed by the Press.

For more information about eligibility requirements and how to submit, visit

<https://scholarlypress.si.edu>