

(Provisional Translation)

This document is a provisional translation of the description of “Open Access to Research Publications” in “JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management.”

April 1, 2017

Revised on April 1, 2022

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management

Rapid development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in recent years has made research results (e.g., papers and generated research data) easier to be shared and used mutually. This leads to rapid spread of the concept of Open Science globally, which is a new method to advance research. In Japan, Open Science has been promoted in line with global trends. The 6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan¹ states that it aims to enhance the presence of Japan by generating high-value research through digitalizing our society as a whole, and promoting Digital Transformation of research itself in accordance with the global trends of Open Science; it also mentions the contributions to Open Science from a global perspective. The Plan suggests how to manage and utilize publicly funded research data, and the Cabinet Office presented "the Basic Idea of Management and Utilization of Publicly Funded Research Data."²

JST developed “JST Policy on Open Access³” in 2013 and “JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management” in 2017 to promote Open Science to research results stemming from research projects funded by JST (hereinafter referred to as “research projects”). In 2022, JST revised “Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management” to reflect both the domestic and international situation and for the further promotion of Open Science.

Moreover, JST will cooperate with research institutions whose research projects are funded by JST, and other stakeholders, to implement this policy. This policy also addresses the challenges of developing infrastructure of scientific and technical information required to advance Open Science, and promoting the communication between the public and researchers.

Described below are specific guidelines on handling research results.

I. Open Access to Research Publications

¹ Cabinet Decision was made on March 26, 2021.

² Cabinet Office Council for Science, Technology and Innovation (April 27, 2021)

³ Means to publish academic outputs in a way that allows access to everyone and free of charge via the internet without any restrictions.

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Open Access should be applied to all research publications in principle. In particular, peer-reviewed research articles (including review papers, and conference papers that are accepted for publication in a conference proceeding) should be made openly available within 12 months of publication in principle.

In achieving Open Access, it is recommended that making final accepted peer-reviewed manuscripts and other relevant submitted versions publicly available by depositing them in an institutional repository or other relevant mechanisms. Publishing research publications, by researchers participating in JST funded projects (hereinafter referred to as “researchers”), in journals committed to Open Access is allowable, but is not necessarily encouraged.

In achieving Open Access, it is preferable to specify terms of the copyright and the usage rules clearly when the reuse of the research results is allowed, in line with journal policies and the researcher’s intention.

Note that details of Open Access to Research Publications shall be specified in the Implementation Guidelines separately.

II. Handling Research Data

(Development of Data Management Plan⁴)

The researcher, who is responsible for a research activity plan of a research project (Principal Investigator, hereinafter referred to as “PI”), is required to develop a data management plan defining how to manage research data. The plan should be submitted to JST before the research project begins at the latest.

(Preservation, Management, and Access to Research Data)

The PI is required to preserve and manage research data appropriately based on the data management plan. It is recommended that underlying data should be made openly available. The release of other research data, except for underlying data, is also expected. It is recognized that there are certain cases that should be given consideration on setting embargo period according to certain conditions, so as not to cause any disadvantages to researchers and other relevant parties. It is also desired to set and clarify the rules for secondary use to facilitate reuse of research data.

However, the data, which are recognized to require special considerations for release

⁴ A plan to define how to handle research data in the course of research project, in particular, refers to the descriptions of policies and plans for the project on preservation, management, and release/non - release of research data with its restriction.

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(e.g., the data related to confidentiality, trade secret, national interest, national security; the data intended to be collected for the use of commercialization and industrialization; the data possessed by private enterprises; the data that should be restricted under joint research agreements and similar entities; the data that should be protected in terms of privacy protection; and the data that should be protected in terms of proprietary interest) may be exempted.

(Creation of Metadata on Research Data)

The PI is required to create the metadata, according to the rules set by JST, on research data listed in the Data Management Plan etc. after JST establishes a way to process the metadata.

The details of research projects in scope, data management plan, and handling of research data are specified separately.