

Midlands Innovation Rights Retention Statement of Intent

Midlands Innovation is founded on the belief that world-class research stimulates societal and economic growth for the region and beyond.

We strongly endorse the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (2021)¹ that calls for ‘making science more accessible, inclusive and equitable for the benefit of all’.

Open Science² has the potential of making the scientific process more transparent, inclusive and democratic. It is increasingly recognised as a critical accelerator for the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and a true game changer in bridging the science, technology and innovation gaps and fulfilling the human right to science.

[UNESCO](#)

In the UK, Open Science, more often defined as Open Research,

relates to how research is performed and how knowledge is shared based on the principle that research should be as open as possible.

Transparency, openness, verification and reproducibility are important features of research and innovation. Open research helps to support and uphold these features across the whole lifecycle of research – improving public value, research integrity, re-use and innovation.

[UKRI](#)

In line with UKRI, NIHR, Wellcome and other key research funders who globally support, and require the implementation of Open Research through their policies and funding grants, Midlands Innovation is committed to maximising the world-class quality, integrity, discoverability and availability of our research; enhancing its societal, scholarly, and economic impact through greater openness, transparency and the democratization of knowledge.

Midlands Innovation is committed to supporting Open Research and will endeavour, working in collaboration across our Universities, to make our research activity as openly available as possible.

A key enabler of Open Research is author rights retention. This ensures authors keep the rights to their work, and enables their research to be as open as possible and as closed as necessary. Here, authors do not automatically transfer the Intellectual Property Rights in their research publications to publishers and, in parallel with journal or other forms of e- or print

¹ <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/about>

² Open Science, from *scientia* meaning knowledge, includes and reflects all academic and scholarly disciplines and endeavours inclusively across the arts, humanities and sciences

publication, can make each research publication³ immediately open access through institutional and subject repositories.

Rights Retention helps authors and institutions meet funder requirements, and supports the wider sector move through transitional deals towards a fully open scholarly communications infrastructure. Innovative publishers are already supporting the development of Open Research, and Midlands Innovation encourages and supports this best practice approach.

Midlands Innovation will continue to develop our approach to Open Research in line with global trends, UK funders & the UK Government R&D Roadmap:

Crucially, we must embrace the potential of open research practices. First, we will require that research outputs funded by the UK government are freely available to the taxpayer who funds research. Such open publication will also ensure that UK research is cited and built on all over the world. We will mandate open publication and strongly incentivise open data sharing where appropriate, so that reproducibility is enabled, and knowledge is shared and spread collaboratively.

[UK Research & Development Roadmap](#) July 2020

Midlands Innovation | September 2023

Definitions:

Midlands Innovation

Midlands Innovation is an ambitious research and innovation partnership, combining the collective excellence of eight world-class universities in the heart of the UK: Aston University, University of Birmingham, Cranfield University, Keele University, University of Leicester, Loughborough University, University of Nottingham and University of Warwick. We unite the power of university research with the unique strengths of Midlands industry to drive cutting-edge research, innovation and skills development to create opportunities for our people, place and partnership.

Open Science (UNESCO)

“Open science is defined as an inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community. It comprises all scientific disciplines and aspects of scholarly practices, including basic and applied sciences, natural and social sciences and the humanities, and it builds on the following key pillars: open scientific knowledge, open science infrastructures, science communication, open engagement of societal actors and open dialogue with other knowledge systems.”

³ Either the Author Accepted Manuscript, or the Version of Record.

Supporting information for university staff:

Midlands Innovation has joined a growing number of universities in the UK taking a stance on the importance of researchers being able to retain their Intellectual Property Rights when their work is published. The group of eight universities has issued a statement that outlines the intention of each of the universities within the partnership to develop a position on author rights retention.

Why is this being done?

In 2022, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) made it mandatory for all of their funded research published in journals to be immediately available Open Access through a number of possible routes. This includes paying for Gold OA, publishing through Diamond routes and Open Access can also be achieved via depositing the author accepted manuscript, or Version of Record if the publisher permits this, in an Institutional Repository and making it available immediately, without embargo, with a Creative Commons or equivalent CC BY license.

This CC BY license allows anyone to make commercial use of the work under the condition of attributing the research in the manner specified by the author or licensor.

Some publishers, however, are not compliant and do not accept that a researcher's original rights should be

retained by the researcher. This means that publishers may not accept manuscripts where an application has been made for a CC BY license and the researcher has clearly stated that they own and retain the rights in their own research.

Our statement strongly recommends that researchers do not, by default, transfer intellectual property rights to publishers and instead use a Rights Retention statement as standard practice.

What is Rights Retention?

Rights retention is a funder-led initiative that supports the self-archiving route to open access. It allows you to publish in a subscription journal and to make your manuscript available open access through self-deposit.

Who is involved?

This involves those employed within the eight Midlands Innovation universities who wish to publish their research in any form of scholarly publication.

What does this mean for me when I publish?

You are strongly encouraged to not, by default, transfer intellectual property rights to publishers and instead use a Rights Retention statement as standard practice. Your university is in the process of putting in place its own Rights Retention policy and we encourage you to refer directly to the relevant guidance available at your university.

Who can I contact in my university?

Aston University:

Email: openaccess@aston.ac.uk

University weblink: [Funding Open Access Publication | Aston University](#)

University of Birmingham:

Email: Alex Fenlon, Head of Copyright and Licensing – a.fenlon@bham.ac.uk

Email: Michael Dainton, Head of Scholarly Communications – m.dainton@bham.ac.uk

Websites:

1. Library Services Open Access:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/research/open-access/index.aspx>,

2. Copyright & Open Access:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/research/open-access/copyright-and-open-access.aspx#:~:text=Rights%20Retention&text=It%20works%20by%20ensuring%20that,a%20CC%20BY%20licence%20immediately>

Cranfield University:

Email: Rachel Daniels, Research Support Manager, r.j.daniels@cranfield.ac.uk

Library website: <https://library.cranfield.ac.uk/home>

Website: <https://library.cranfield.ac.uk/openaccess>

Guidance page: <https://library.cranfield.ac.uk/openaccess/rights-retention>

Keele University:

Email: research.openaccess@Keele.ac.uk

University weblink: www.keele.ac.uk/openresearch

University of Leicester:

Email: openaccess@leicester.ac.uk

University weblink: <https://le.ac.uk/library/research-support>

Loughborough University:

Email: repository@lboro.ac.uk

University weblink: <https://www.lboro.ac.uk/research/support/publishing/open-access/>

University of Nottingham:

Email: openaccess@nottingham.ac.uk

University weblink: <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/library/research/>

University of Warwick:

Email: openaccessfund@warwick.ac.uk

University weblink: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/staff/open-access/>