

Laimburg Research Centre: Open Access Strategie

Plan S wants for publicly funded research to no longer be locked behind expensive paywalls. The access to and dissemination of this output will get an enormous boost, since expensive paywalls restrict the access of publicly funded knowledge to "the privileged few."

Robert-Jan Smits, Open Access Envoy of the European Commission

Commitment of the Laimburg Research Centre to Open Access

According to its founding statutes, the main goals and duties of Laimburg Research Centre include the transfer of knowledge and the dissemination of data in the areas of agriculture and forestry, agrarian and food sciences, as well as in all related areas. This is effected by means of publications in various different technical periodicals, which should be freely accessible to all, as far as possible.

To achieve this, the Laimburg Research Centre has decided to pursue an Open Access Strategy for its publication activities. The expression "Open Access" refers to the free and unrestricted access to scientific literature and research findings in the Internet. The Laimburg Research Centre supports its co-workers in publishing research findings in the Open Access mode. This serves to promote the exchange of information between research and practice, but also to provide the general public with free and equal access to the findings generated by publicly financed research.

In order to facilitate access to scientific literature, it is important to distinguish between two separate strategies:

- The so-called "*Golden Way*" focuses on the publication of articles in Open Access journals (see: [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)) and the release of such articles (for a fee) in hybrid journals;
- In the so-called "*Green Way*," on the other hand, publications which have already appeared in (closed-access) journals are made available in Open Access (second publication), e.g., in repositories or on document servers.

Goals of Open Access

The over-arching goal of Open Access is to make publications on research findings – which are increasingly being made available according to the FAIR principle ("Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable") – publicly accessible.

The publication of scientific articles in Open Access offers the following advantages:

- Unrestricted access: Publications from publicly subsidised research should be made freely available to a wider audience. Research findings published in Open Access are available to the general public.
- Verifiability: By means of free access to scientific publications with comprehensive attribution and sourcing, the transparency and verifiability of the research findings is increased.

- Acceleration of research innovations: The publication, in a timely manner, of research findings makes it possible to have shorter innovation cycles. The results from one research project are more quickly available to other projects.
- Enhanced visibility: Articles published in Open Access are more-widely known and are cited more frequently. This increases their visibility and impact. The prestige of the authors and institutions they belong to is therefore enhanced.
- Promotion of international and interdisciplinary cooperation: Because Open Access publications can be used in a digital form and free of charge, they promote the worldwide and interdisciplinary sharing of scientific work and the internationalisation of research.

Open Access measures

The Laimburg Research Centre expressly supports the promotion of Open Access and encourages its co-workers to actively participate in the achievement of these goals:

- The Centre's co-workers publish scientific contributions (especially journal articles and reports) in Open Access whenever possible – either in Open Access publications (e.g., the "*Laimburg Journal*") or in hybrid journals where the articles are posted after payment of corresponding charges (APC = "article publication charges").
- The Centre's co-workers exercise their second-window rights for their contributions that have already appeared. At the same time, they also exercise these rights in a forward-looking manner (i.e., no transfer of exclusive rights). This ensures that, after the often still-mandatory embargo period, their contributions can be made freely available, online, to the public (the "*Green Way*") in an institutional repository (e.g., the "Bozen-Bolzano Institutional Archive").
- The Centre's co-workers can make use of an Open Access publication fund to finance any author fees which may be due.
- The Centre's co-workers take advantage of the possibility to apply for Open Access publication fees in the framework of corresponding competitions and third-party funds applications.
- The Centre's co-workers actively cooperate with Open Access journals, e.g., as authors or reviewers.
- The Laimburg Research Centre also encourages its co-workers to provide their research data (raw data) in Open Access in the future.
- Every two years, the Open Access quota for publications of the Laimburg Research Centre is determined and benchmarks are established.
- The "*LARIS*" research information system of the Laimburg Research Centre serves as the Centre's internal repository. The coworkers' publications are made accessible (with full-text access, whenever possible) via an internal access.

Support and infrastructure

Laimburg's technical library operates as the service centre for the publication of research findings in the Open Access mode, and also serves as a clearing board for all issues and questions relating to Open Access.

- The library serves as the internal repository for publications by authors of the Laimburg Research Centre and represents a component of the "LARIS" research information system.
- The library is the publisher of the "*Laimburg Journal*" Open Access periodical.
- The library administers the budget for the publication fund used to pay for any author fees which might be due upon publication.
- The library coordinates the transfer of the publications into an institutional repository that is freely accessible online.
- The "*Project Service*" work group supports the Centre's co-workers when applying for Open Access publication fees in the framework of competitions and third-party funds applications.

For the promotion of Open Access, the Laimburg Research Centre places the following infrastructure at the disposal of its co-workers:

- "*LARIS*:" research information system of the Laimburg Research Centre acting as an internal repository
- *The "Laimburg Journal":* The Open Access online publication of the Laimburg Research Centre

The implementation of the Open Access Strategy is in complete compliance with all statutory regulations. The freedom of choice of Laimburg Research Centre's co-workers with regards to publication media is not affected.