Open Science: Trusted Repositories for Open Access to Scientific Publications and Monographs

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Issue

To fully comply with the Open Science requirements of Horizon Europe grants, beneficiaries/authors must now not only publish their scientific publication or monograph in an open access venue, but they must also deposit an open access version in a trusted repository at the same time as publication.

Following queries from subscribers, UKRO has written this article to explain what a trusted repository is and what can be considered a trusted repository.

What is a trusted repository?

A repository is an online archive, where researchers can deposit digital research outputs and provide (open) access to them. Repositories help manage and provide access to scientific outputs, such as publications, data, software and other outputs. They also contribute to the long-term preservation of digital assets.

A <u>trusted digital repository</u> is one whose mission is to provide reliable, long-term access to managed digital resources to its designated community, now and in the future. Trusted repositories have specific provisions in place and offer explicit information online about their policies, which define their services (e.g. acquisition, access, security of content, long-term sustainability of service including funding).Trusted repositories should be certified as trustworthy data archives (e.g. <u>CoreTrustSeal</u>, <u>nestor Seal DIN31644</u>, <u>ISO16363</u>) or are disciplinary and domain repositories commonly used and endorsed by the research communities and recognised internationally. In order to be considered trusty worthy, the repository must have the following characteristics (taken from the <u>Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement</u>, p156-157):

- Display specific characteristics of organisational, technical and procedural quality such as services, mechanisms and/or provisions that are intended to secure the integrity and authenticity of their contents, thus facilitating their use and re-use in the short- and long-term

- Provide broad, equitable and ideally open access to content free at the point of use, as appropriate, and respect applicable legal and ethical limitations. They assign persistent unique identifiers to contents (DOIs, handles, etc.), such that the contents (publications, data and other research outputs) are unequivocally referenced and citeable. They ensure that contents are accompanied by metadata sufficiently detailed and of sufficiently high quality to enable discovery, reuse and citation and contain information about provenance and licensing; metadata are machine-actionable and standardised (e.g. Dublin Core, Data Cite) preferably using common non-proprietary formats and following the standards of the respective community the repository serves, where applicable
- Facilitate mid- and long-term preservation of the deposited material. They have mechanisms or provisions for expert curation and quality assurance for the accuracy and integrity of datasets and metadata, as well as procedures to liaise with depositors where issues are detected. They meet generally accepted international and national criteria for security to prevent unauthorised access and release of content and have different levels of security depending on the sensitivity of the data being deposited to maintain privacy and confidentiality

Can you give me some examples of repositories?

Repositories can be domain-specific, operating to support specific research communities and supported/endorsed by the research communities:

- Europe PMC for life sciences including biomedicine and health
- arXiv for physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance and statistics
- Phonogrammarchiv for audiovisual recordings
- the CLARIN-DK-UCPH Repository for digital language data
- the European Nucleotide Archive
- the European Southern Observatory databases of astronomical observations

There are also general-purpose repositories, such as Zenodo, which is used by the European Commission's Open Research Europe (ORE) platform, which is open to Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe beneficiaries with no publishing fees. If ORE is selected as the publishing venue, all OA to scientific publication requirements will be fulfilled by the beneficiary.

Would an institution repository also work?

Repositories can be institutional, operating with the purpose to collect, disseminate and preserve digital research outputs of individual research organisations, such as the repository of University X. An institutional repository needs to meet the trustworthiness characteristics (see above) and must meet the requirements set out in Article 17 and Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe MGA.

What would not be considered a repository?

Personal websites and databases, publisher websites, as well as cloud storage services (Dropbox, Google drive, etc) are not considered repositories.

Academia.edu, ResearchGate and similar platforms do not allow open access under the terms required and are NOT considered repositories.

Institutional repositories that require a login ID to access the data do not comply with the EU rules.

Further information

More information on the open access requirements for monographs in Horizon Europe can be found in this recent article.

UKRO has recently produced a factsheet on Open Science Obligations in Horizon Europe and a factsheet on Open Science Policy in Horizon Europe.

🏷 Open Science, R & I Policy, Horizon Europe, L & F Questions