



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

# Open Access Policy

**Policy Name:** ARC Open Access Policy

**Policy Owner:** Branch Manager, Research Evaluation and Policy

**Effective from:** 1/07/2026 **Version number:** 2026.1

**Date for revision:** 1/01/2028



## Table of Contents

ARC Open Access Policy .....	3
1. Purpose .....	3
2. Scope .....	3
3. Commencement and Application .....	3
4. Policy Requirements .....	3
4.1 Responsibilities .....	3
4.2 Requirements for Research Outputs.....	3
4.3 Requirements for Metadata .....	4
4.4 Routes to Compliance .....	4
4.5 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights.....	5
4.6 Acknowledgement of ARC funding.....	7
5. Definitions .....	7
6. Contact Details .....	9
7. Document Control.....	9

# ARC Open Access Policy

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the ARC Open Access Policy is to ensure that research outputs arising from ARC funded research are as openly accessible as possible for the benefit of the Australian public, researchers, industry and governments.

## 2. Scope

The Policy applies to the following research outputs arising from ARC funded research:

- Post-print or Author Accepted Manuscript;
- Publisher's version; and
- Other research outputs, such as Creative Works that have undergone external review of an equivalent academic standard.

The Policy does not apply to:

Versions of a research output that have not been refereed or peer reviewed such as Preprints and comparable resources; or research data and research data outputs. Research data arising from ARC funded research are addressed separately under the ARC's data management requirements.

## 3. Commencement and Application

All ARC funded research is required to comply with the ARC's Open Access Policy as specified in ARC Grant Agreements and Grant Guidelines. This version of the Policy commenced on 1 July 2026 with several different versions of the Policy over time.

- For Grant Agreements where the Grant Guidelines do not specify a version, [version 2021.1](#) of the Policy applies.
- For Grant Agreements where the Grant Guidelines specify a version of the Policy, the specified version applies.

## 4. Policy Requirements

### 4.1 Responsibilities

The Administering Organisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the ARC Open Access Policy for all ARC funded research it administers.

The Project Lead must work with the Administering Organisation to ensure compliance with this policy.

### 4.2 Requirements for Research Outputs

A published research output arising from ARC funded research that meets the scope of this policy must be made openly accessible.

All research outputs must be listed in the project Final Report and must have a DOI. In cases where a research output has not been, or will not be, made openly accessible within the required timeframe, the Final Report must also provide:

- a justification for why the Policy requirement was not met,

- an outline of what steps were taken to try to meet the Policy requirement, and the timeframe the research output will become openly accessible, the steps that will be taken to achieve this, and who will be responsible for actioning.

In recognition of diverse publishing practices the Policy sets out the following requirements depending on the research output type.

### Journal Articles and Conference Papers

A journal article or peer-reviewed conference paper must be made openly accessible immediately on publication. A Creative Commons CC BY must be applied to the research output unless a different licence is required to comply with section 4.5 of the Policy.

### Monographs, Edited Volumes, Book Chapters, and Research Reports

A monograph, edited volume, book chapter or research report must be made openly accessible as soon as possible and within 12 months of publication. The ARC recommends that a Creative Commons licence be applied with a strong preference for CC BY.

### Creative Works

The ARC strongly encourages creative works to be made openly accessible wherever it is possible to do so.

## 4.3 Requirements for Metadata

Publicly available high-quality metadata is critical to ensure that research is findable and to ensure that there is robust data about research activity in Australia.

Metadata for all research outputs arising from ARC funded research must be openly accessible in an institutional repository as soon as possible but no later than 3 months from the date of publication of the research output. This requirement applies for all research outputs, regardless of whether the research output can be made openly accessible.

Metadata must include:

- Author(s) and their ORCIDs
- Title
- Type of research output
- Publisher
- ARC Grant DOI
- ARC ROR <https://ror.org/05mmh0f86>
- DOI for the research output
- A rich description of the research output
- Date of publication/public presentation
- Available access of the output (open access or closed/subscription access)
- Licence associated with the research output.

The metadata entry should also include any other available PIDs relating to the output. The requirements for metadata outlined in this Policy aligns with the ARC's Research Data Framework, and the ARC's PID Action Plan.

## 4.4 Routes to Compliance

Researchers may comply with the Policy requirements for research outputs through one of two

routes.

### Route One: Version of Record open access (publisher open access)

#### **Making the Version of Record (VoR) immediately open access with a CC BY licence.**

This route can be used when a research output is being published in an open access journal or publisher such as a press that publishes openly.

This route may be associated with the payment of a fee or article processing charge (APC). The APC may be paid directly by the author or institution or may be covered by a formal agreement between an institution or group of institutions and a publisher (for example, a 'read and publish' or transformative agreement).

This route may be described as 'gold' or 'diamond' open access depending upon the business model of the journal or publisher.

### Route Two: Author Accepted Manuscript open access (repository-based open access)

#### **Making the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) immediately open access with a CC-BY licence by depositing the AAM in an open online repository such as an institutional repository.**

The ARC supports the implementation of institutional rights retention policies and recommends that Administering Organisations consider implementing a rights retention policy to improve equitable pathways to open access publishing. Rights retention policies guarantee that researchers retain key rights to their work, reduce complexity in licensing and permissions management, and enable outputs to be made available in an open access repository.

This route is sometimes called 'green' open access. There is usually no fee or APC associated with this route.

To use this route the author (or the Administering Organisation) needs to retain sufficient rights to apply a CC BY licence to the AAM. This is known as rights retention.

The licensing arrangements must be in place prior to any publishing agreement through either (1) or (2).

(1) For an author to retain the right to self-archive, they must let the publisher know, e.g. in the cover letter, at the point of submission. If an Administering Organisation has a rights-retention policy, they may provide standard language for the author to use.

Or

(2) if there is no institutional rights retention policy the author should use the following statement:

'This research was funded in whole or part by The Australian Research Council [grant identification number and DOI]. For the purposes of compliance with the funder's open access policy, the author has applied a CC BY licence to any Author Accepted Manuscript version arising from this submission'.

## 4.5 Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities have the right to assert and retain ownership of the cultural and Intellectual Property produced as part of the conduct of

research.<sup>1,2</sup> For research outputs arising from ARC funded research involving research with and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, researchers must undertake the following actions, which demonstrate commitment to the values of justice, equity, respect and responsibility, and the principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination and leadership, sustainability and accountability such as:<sup>1,2,3</sup>

- Discussing ownership, management, use of, access to, and distribution of research results and outputs at the start of a research project and formalising this in a written research agreement
- Including principles of Indigenous Data Governance and Indigenous Data Sovereignty through actions such as:
  - Aligning with the [Maiam Nayri Wingara](#) principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty<sup>3</sup> that Indigenous peoples have the right to:
    - 1) Exercise control of the data ecosystem including creation, development, stewardship, analysis, dissemination and infrastructure
    - 2) Data that are contextual and disaggregated (available and accessible at individual, community and First Nations levels)
    - 3) Data that are relevant and empowers sustainable self-determination and effective self-governance
    - 4) Data structures that are accountable to Indigenous peoples and First Nations
    - 5) Data that are protective and respects our individual and collective interests.
  - Establishing Indigenous-led governance arrangements, such as advisory groups or committees, to oversee data use, sharing, and interpretation
  - Providing capacity building and support for communities to engage in governance roles
  - Formalising agreements specifying ownership and custodianship of data, conditions for data sharing and reuse, and processes for withdrawal or restriction of data access of community requirements change
  - Incorporating mechanisms to evaluate how Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles were implemented<sup>4</sup>
- Incorporating data sharing sensitivities in plans for data management and sharing
- Sharing of Intellectual Property rights for research outputs
- Sharing of copyright for research outputs

---

<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Available from: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research>

<sup>2</sup> Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). A Guide to applying the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Available from: <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research>

<sup>3</sup> Maiam nayri Wingara. (2018). Indigenous Data Sovereignty Communique Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit 20th June 2018, Canberra, ACT.

<sup>4</sup> This could include utilising frameworks such as OCCAAARS (Ownership, Control, Custodianship, Accountability, Access, Amplifying Community voice Relevant and reciprocal, Sustainably self-determining) [10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101302](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101302)

- Co-authorship on research outputs
- Using [Traditional Knowledge Notices](#) in research output metadata
- Following the [Creative Australia Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts](#) for research accessing, using or reproducing music, literature, arts, images or ceremonies of Indigenous peoples, or Indigenous cultural material
- Encouraging the use of [Traditional Knowledge labels](#) in research output metadata by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and local organisations
- Recognising and acknowledging the individual and collective contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities (e.g. through acknowledgement in Final reports, Research outputs and/or presentations)
- Contributing to the [Indigenous Research Exchange](#) platform managed by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)
- Adopting a more restrictive Creative Commons licence for openly shared research outputs if and as appropriate, such as [the Creative Commons Attribution No-derivatives licence \(CC BY-ND\)](#). Use of a more restrictive Creative Commons licence for research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities is an allowable exception to the otherwise mandatory use of the fully open Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC BY) for research papers.

## 4.6 Acknowledgement of ARC funding

All research outputs from ARC funded research must clearly acknowledge the ARC and include the grant identification number, the grant DOI and the ARC’s ROR(<https://ror.org/05mmh0f86>). A suggested format for this is:

‘This research was funded in whole or in part by the Australian Research Council <https://ror.org/05mmh0f86> [grant number(s)] [grant DOI(s)].’

This can occur in an acknowledgements section and ideally should also be in the publisher metadata for the research output DOI. Adding this information allows the tracking of the impact of funding, which helps to demonstrate the value of funding research.

## 5. Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander</b>	A person of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person and is accepted as such by the community in which they live or have lived.
<b>Administering Organisation</b>	The organisation responsible for administering the ARC Funded Research Project, Fellowship or Award.
<b>ARC Funded Research</b>	Research funded, either wholly or partially, under the <i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i> .
<b>ARC Grant Agreement</b>	A Grant Agreement is an agreement between the ARC and the Administering Organisation.
<b>ARC Grant Guidelines</b>	A document which provides applicants with information about a grant scheme, eligibility requirements, the application, selection and approval processes, and

requirements for the administration of funding.

<b>Creative Works</b>	Examples include original creative works, live performances of creative works, recorded/rendered creative works, substantial public exhibitions and events.
<b>Digital Object Identifier (DOI)</b>	A unique persistent identifier for a published digital object, such as an article or a report, issued by the DOI Foundation and its registration agencies such as Crossref and DataCite
<b>Final Report</b>	A report submitted at the completion of an ARC Funded Research Project, Fellowship or Award as required by the applicable ARC Grant Agreement.
<b>Indigenous data sovereignty</b>	The right of Indigenous people to exercise ownership over Indigenous data. Ownership of data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of Indigenous data.
<b>Institutional Repository</b>	An online publicly accessible repository hosted at an academic institution, in which publicly funded Research Outputs and the Metadata for those Outputs can be stored and preserved.
<b>Metadata</b>	Information about a Research Output including author(s), organisation(s), publisher(s), funding information, research project, licence, and other relevant details.
<b>Open Access or Openly Accessible</b>	The availability of Research Outputs to the public via the internet so they can be freely accessed and used, subject to attribution and licensing. Sharing and reuse is facilitated through open licensing.
<b>Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID)</b>	A unique persistent identifier for an individual researcher issued by the ORCID organisation.
<b>Persistent Identifiers (PIDs)</b>	A globally unique and long-lasting reference to an entity with human and machine-readable metadata that can contain qualified relationships to other entities, underpinned by open standards, governance and infrastructure.
<b>Project / Fellowship / Award</b>	As used in the applicable ARC Grant Agreement.
<b>Project Leader / Fellow / Awardee / Director</b>	As used in the applicable ARC Grant Agreement.
<b>Preprint or comparable resource</b>	A scholarly output that precedes publication and is uploaded to a recognised publicly accessible archive or repository, with varying degrees of peer review.
<b>Author Accepted Manuscript</b>	The version of a research output, such as a journal article, that has been accepted for publication, including all changes made as a result of the peer review process, but excluding any editing, typesetting or other changes made by the journal or publisher.
<b>Published / Publication</b>	The form of public presentation of a Research Output specific to the relevant discipline.
<b>Publisher's Version</b>	The version of the Research Output published on the publisher's website, professionally typeset.
<b>Publication Date</b>	The date of publication or public presentation of the Research Output.
<b>Research</b>	The creation of new knowledge or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions, and understandings.
<b>Research Data</b>	Data partially or entirely generated by, collected or accessed for, or used in ARC funded research. Research data output types include, but are not limited to, digital

and analogue data, both raw and processed, numerical scores, textual records, images and sounds used as a primary source in research, protocols, analysis code and workflows.

**Research Organization Registry ID (ROR ID)** A unique persistent identifier for research organisations issued by the Research Organization Registry.

**Research Output** All products of an ARC Funded Research Project that meet the definition of Research.

## 6. Contact Details

### Stakeholder Relations

Australian Research Council

Phone: 02 6287 6600

[communications@arc.gov.au](mailto:communications@arc.gov.au)

[www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au)

## 7. Document Control

Number	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description
2026.1	29 January 2026	CEO	The policy was revised to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthen and differentiate the open access requirements dependant on output type</li><li>• Expand the metadata requirements to reflect the ARC's PID Action Plan</li><li>• Strengthen the policies open licence requirements</li><li>• Introduce requirement to protect Indigenous Intellectual Property Rights.</li></ul>