

Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology

Open Access Policy

Background

Open Access stands for unlimited and free access to quality-controlled academic information in the Internet. Through the removal of technical, financial and legal barriers, Open Access is instrumental in accelerating academic innovation processes and improving the visibility of research results. This supports those working in academia in their research and publication processes, and maximises the benefits of publicly funded research. As a member of the Leibniz Association, the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) is committed to Open Access. With its mission to conduct research and cooperation activities with tropical developing and emerging countries on a partnership basis, the ZMT is especially interested in making its results freely available. It thereby adheres to the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"¹ and the "Guidelines on Open Access within the Leibniz Association" ("Leitlinie zu Open Access in der Leibniz-Gemeinschaft"².

Recommendations and Commitments

The ZMT encourages its academic staff to publish its/their research results in accordance with the principles of Open Access. At the ZMT, this is carried out as quickly as possible through publication in Open Access media and – within legal limitations – by making the publications accessible via document servers (repositories) either in parallel with publication or retroactively as soon as possible. For immediate Open Access publications, the institute recommends publishing under a free usage licence (currently e.g. Creative Commons Attribution).³

In order to assure the option of a parallel or retroactive Open Access publication, the academic staff of the ZMT are obligated to not grant exclusive rights of use to publishing companies when entering a publishing contract, but instead to – as far as is possible – secure their own permanent right of use and transfer non-exclusive rights of use to the ZMT or the institutional and/or a subject-specific repository. This is the only way to secure Open Access use in addition to all forms of commercial use by publishing companies. The ZMT recommends to its academic staff that they also apply for third-party funding for open-access publication fees when submitting project proposals.

As part of its Open Access commitment, the ZMT aims at increasing its share of Open Access publications from presently 30 % to **50 %** in 2017.

¹ <http://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

² Guideline for Open Access within the Leibniz-Association.

http://www.leibnizgemeinschaft.de/fileadmin/user_upload/downloads/Infrastruktur/OpenAccess-Leitlinie.pdf

³ <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Scientists are required to use the correct ZMT contact address to allow for statistical utilisation of scientific publications.

German: Leibniz-Zentrum für Marine Tropenforschung (ZMT) GmbH,

English: Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)

Implementation

The ZMT promotes Open Access by

- Identifying publications by its academic staff which are legally eligible for Open Access (e.g. via integration into the publication management system) and making them accessible via suitable repositories;
- Delivering publications by its academic staff which are legally eligible for Open Access to the subject-specific repositories "PubMan" and "EconStor" for Open Access provision.
- Indexing freely accessible publications by its academic staff with LeibnizOpen;
- supporting its scientists with the realisation of Open Access activities and taking over organisational tasks;
- Advising its academic staff on Open Access and supporting them in clarifying issues concerning Open Access publication of their research results. For this purpose, the ZMT has appointed Christina Fromm as Open Access representative.

Person to contact:

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