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Open Access Policy of Tomas Bata University in Zlín



Institutional Quality and Development of Science Strategy at UTB

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Preamble

The aim of the Open Access Policy is to promote performance in science and research at Tomas Bata University in Zlín (hereinafter referred to as UTB) and to achieve international standards in the scientific research process at UTB. This document sets out UTB's policy on Open Access (OA) to scientific publications and research data (FAIR Data). The policy defines the principles and rules for the dissemination of the results of the scientific research process at UTB in the OA mode and sets out the conditions for achieving the goal.

Article 1

General provisions

1. Open access to scientific information means free and unrestricted online access to information with the right to re-use the content. It provides permanent, immediate, free and unrestricted online access to the full text of published scientific results for anyone.
2. This policy applies to all scientific and professional that employee works within the meaning of Section 58 of Act No. 121/2000 Coll., the Copyright Act, created while the author was an employee of UTB. It applies to all peer-reviewed publication outputs of UTB authors, namely journal articles, conference papers, monographs, book chapters, other materials that are outputs of projects supported by public funds.
3. Another area covered by the policy is research data management. Research Data Management (RDM) primarily refers to the organisation, storage and long-term preservation of data generated during the research process, in particular in accordance with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles.

Article 2

Legislative

framework

UTB's open access policy is influenced by national and European documents and legislative acts that regulate this area. These include:

- 1) **Commission Recommendation 2018/790 on access to and preservation of scientific information**, according to which Member States' open access policies should aim to provide researchers and the general public with free, open and non-discriminatory access to peer-reviewed scientific publications, research data and other research outputs at the earliest possible stage of their dissemination, and to enable the use and re-use of the results of scientific research. The Recommendation also emphasises

Sharing scientific data that should be traceable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR).

- 2) **The National Policy on Research, Development and Innovation of the Czech Republic 2021+**, which has as one of its strategic objectives to ensure open access to the results of R&D supported by public funds. The policy also emphasises the involvement of research teams in European research projects that require open access.
- 3) **The National Strategy for Open Access to Scientific Information of the Czech Republic for the years 2017-2020** defining individual concepts, roles, principles and priorities in the field of open access.
- 4) **The concept of the Information System for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation for the period 2021-2025** - measure 2.5 aims to ensure support for open access to scientific information (Open Access), including the provision of technical and software resources - openly accessible repositories of scientific publications will be linked to the Register of Information on Results (RIV). Open access will be ensured for individual publications resulting from publicly research, development and innovation.
- 5) **The strategic plan of the Ministry of Education and Science for the period from 2021**, according to which the Ministry of Education and Science will promote the implementation of open access to the results of research and development funded from public sources in accordance with the National Strategy for Open Access of the Czech Republic to Scientific Information and Participation in the European Research Area.
- 6) **Directive 1024/2019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on open data**, Article 10 of which concerns research data and requires Member States to adapt their policies towards open access to publicly research data. The basic idea of the Directive is to make data available in accordance the principles of "as open as possible, closed as necessary", i.e. to make data available as much as possible unless other considerations prevent it (e.g. personal data or data related to national security, etc.).

Other documents and legislative acts in preparation/comment procedure:

- 1) **National Strategy Open Science 2021+** (responsibility of RVVI).
- 2) **Amendments to Act No. 130/2002 Coll., on Support for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation from Public Funds and on Amendments to Certain Related Acts (Act on Support for Research, Experimental Development and Innovation), as amended**, to implement Directive 1024/2019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European on Open Data. According to this law, recipients of public funding must address the management of data and accessibility and dissemination in accordance with the principle that research results and research data are not made public only when justified (the principle of "As open as possible as closed as necessary").

Article 3

Policy objectives

UTB strives for transparent and non-discriminatory dissemination of research results at the University. UTB is interested in making the results of its research activities as visible, usable and impactful as possible for other scientists and organisations, thus increasing the prestige and influence of the University. On this basis, UTB strives to increase the proportion of publications available in open access mode. This objective can be achieved in the basic ways - the gold, green and platinum open access routes (see Articles 4, 5 and 6). This involves depositing publications in an institutional repository. UTB is interested in having all the publication activities of UTB authors in one place. This allows for efficient management of academic results, while reducing the risk of plagiarism and enabling effective text searching and datamining for UTB authors. The aim is to make all publications by university authors available in the UTB Repository in Open Access mode, if the publisher's licensing conditions allow it.

Within this area falls also the fair treatment of research data, generated in the scientific research process (see Article 7). The aim is the efficient management of research data, its long-term preservation, visibility and possible accessibility. The possibility of verifying the correctness of the result increases the quality of the scientific research process and enables its reproduction. The opportunity to reuse data once obtained speeds up the innovation cycle and saves costs.

The policy also aims to raise awareness of open access and modern trends in scholarly communication among UTB staff and students.

Article 4

Implementing the golden path of open access

1. The golden path of open access means publishing in peer-reviewed open publishing platforms. This ensures immediate open access to the publication on the journal or publisher's website.
2. The final version of the publication is also stored and shared through the institutional Repository of Publications of UTB. By depositing the article in the repository, long-term archiving and availability of the article is ensured.
3. UTB supports publishing in fully open journals with regard to their quality. Authors are encouraged to publish in peer-reviewed journals (e.g., listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (<https://doaj.org/>)).
4. In order to prevent the publication of papers in low-quality (predatory) journals, authors have the opportunity to use the control mechanisms provided the University before submitting the paper to the editorial office of an open access journal. These include access to the Cabell's database of predatory journals or the quality control service offered by the UTB Library.
5. Publishing in open access journals is often associated with the need to pay Article Processing Charges (APCs). The rules for payment of author fees are dealt with in a separate directive.

Article 5

Implementation of the Open Access Greenway

1. Green Open Access means ensuring open access by inserting an article into a publicly accessible repository (by auto-archiving the article) and then making it available in accordance with the publisher's terms and conditions, i.e. immediately or after the expiry of a time embargo.
2. The embargo period is a period of time set by the publisher after which a publication deposited in the repository may not be openly accessible. The embargo period begins on the date of official publication.
3. A publicly accessible institutional repository of UTB is the UTB Publications Repository (hereinafter referred to as the Repository) available at <http://publikace.k.utb.cz/>.
4. Each record in the Repository has a unique handle identifier and the Repository is indexed by Google Scholar and other search services and repositories, thus promoting visibility of published papers and thus their citation. Citation metrics are available for each record.
5. In accordance with the publisher's self-archiving policy, an electronic copy of the publication in its final form is available in the Repository. This may be either the final version of a peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication after the peer-review process (postprint) or the publisher's version of the publication. If available, a preprint (version before peer review) can also be made available in the Repository.
6. The status of the journal or publisher will be checked by the UTB Library. Most publishers allow articles to be shared as postprints, which can then be distributed through the Repository.
7. Documents are transferred to the Repository for archiving via records in the OBD system. Authors are obliged to attach the postprint and the final version of the article as an appendix to the OBD record within 30 days from the date of publication of the article. The obligation does not have to be fulfilled by the researcher himself/herself, but can be fulfilled by the designated department/faculty member in charge of publication reporting. However, authors need to deliver the postprint to this staff member in due time.

Article 6

Open Publications

1. UTB also acts in the publishing environment as a publisher of (mostly) scientific publications. Here, too, it strives for maximum implementation of the principles associated open access.
2. All journals published at UTB strive to respect high publishing standards, adhere to ethical publishing principles, and clearly define their policies on the business model and open access.
3. Electronic articles and publications published at the University are assigned a persistent DOI (Digital Object Identifier). The aim is to ensure unambiguous global identifiability and easy traceability of scientific outputs produced at UTB.

4. The UTB Publishing House strives to increase the rate of electronic publications published under Creative Commons open licenses.

Article 7

Research data management

1. Research data can be characterized as any information that has been collected, observed, generated or produced for the purpose of verifying or reproducing research results. Research data can take different forms and can be both digital and non-digital.
2. [The FAIR](#) principles describe how data should be processed to make it more findable (Findable), accessible (Accessible), interoperable (Interoperable) and reusable (Reusable).
3. FAIR data will allow for validation of results, reuse of data once obtained, acceleration of the research cycle and reproduction of the scientific research process.
4. UTB is committed to fair handling and transparent dissemination of research data. This requires, above all, a good metadata description of research data and its long-term archiving.
5. Fair handling of research data creates the conditions for compliance with legal obligations in this . UTB continuously monitors the issue of research data management and responds to new legislative requirements that arise in this area. Academics are provided with the necessary support by the UTB Library.
6. In (especially in projects) where researchers are obliged to implement a Data Management Plan (DMP), it is possible to use tools such as [Data Stewardship Wizzard](#) or [DMPOnline](#) for its creation. Support in this area is provided by the Library.
7. Researchers have the possibility to store their research data in the Zenodo repository, where UTB has established an institutional profile.

Article 8

Unique identifiers

1. The open and transparent dissemination of publication outputs also requires the unambiguous identification of authors. This is ensured by so-called unique author identifiers (e.g. ORCID).
2. Authors from UTB are obliged to create an ORCID ID, which is further used for reporting the results of creative activities to the OBD system and then to the national RIV system. The aim is to ensure unambiguous global identifiability of all UTB .
3. The UTB Library provides methodological and practical support in the area of creation and administration.

Article 9

Education and support

1. The UTB Library raises awareness of open access to scientific information, research data management and current trends in scientific communication among UTB staff and students.
2. The library maintains a website dedicated to open access (<https://open.k.utb.cz/>).
3. The library organises regular training sessions in this area for PhD students, academics and technical and economic staff.
4. Information on the open access policy is also communicated through consultations with individual institutes.
5. Through regular meetings, practical workshops and training sessions, a network of staff across UTB is created who are sufficiently familiar with the overall issue of open access.