

UC Open Access Policy FAQ

Where did the Policy come from?

It was proposed and adopted by faculty, through the procedures of the Academic Senate. Other versions with similar intent were recommended as early as 2006.

Who does the Policy cover?

As an Academic Senate policy, the Policy applies only to Senate faculty.

What does the Policy cover?

It covers scholarly articles for which the publication agreement was signed after July 24, 2013. “Scholarly articles” is open to a certain amount of interpretation so that faculty can judge if it makes sense to include works that aren’t typical journal articles.

What are the goals of the Policy?

1. To ensure faculty maintain the rights to their work. Under the Policy, faculty retain the rights to their published articles.
2. To ensure public access to UC scholarship. Greater access enables greater recognition.

How do faculty comply with the Policy?

Faculty members are expected to deposit the post peer-review manuscript version of their articles into eScholarship (UC’s open access repository and publishing platform), or to provide a link to an open version of the article that is available elsewhere.

UCSB and other non-pilot campuses should, for the time being, deposit articles at <http://uc-oa.info>. Entering a DOI or PMID will complete most of the form for you. In the coming months, watch for an email prompt from the automated publication management system.

Will the Policy cause problems with publishers?

No. UC notified more than 200 publishers about the Policy in fall 2014. Authors have to get a waiver only if publishers ask them directly for one: uc-oa.info/publisher-communications/.

Is it a problem if a publisher's policy is different from UC's, or if an author has to transfer copyright to the publisher?

No. The UC Policy prevails over publisher copyright transfer agreements signed after July 24, 2013. The only time faculty authors can't rely on the rights reserved by the UC policy is if they get a waiver.

Does adding articles to ResearchGate or Academic.edu meet the requirements of the Policy?

No. Articles must be deposited in an open access repository (e.g., eScholarship, SSRN, PubMed, arXiv). Repositories provide long-term preservation and access. ResearchGate and Academia.edu are for-profit sites focused on collaboration and networking rather than stable long-term preservation and access.

Can articles with images in which the author does not hold the copyright be deposited?

It depends on whether you had to sign an agreement to get access to the image you used. If you didn't, because the image is in the public domain or your use of it was fair use, then the work can be made publicly accessible with the image included. If you did sign an agreement, review the agreement to see if it allows broad use of the image as long as it is in the context of the article. If the agreement does not permit public access to the image in the context of the article, you have a few options:

- Deposit a version of the article that does not include the images; readers unfamiliar with the images who want to fully understand your arguments will need to get the version of record through other channels.
- Contact the other party to the agreement to get permission.
- Get a different copy of the image from a different source with better terms.
- Opt out of the policy for that article by visiting the waiver page.