

## **Open Access Policy of Aalen University**

The central aim of Open Access<sup>1</sup> is to make research results and other materials accessible and usable in digital form for different target groups as barrier-free as possible, i.e. without legal, financial or technical restrictions. An important element of its implementation is open access to scientific publications. In numerous funding programmes, the publication of results from funded projects in open access publications is now expected or even mandatory.

Knowledge-based teaching and application-orientated research are important profile elements of Aalen University. The open exchange of information and knowledge supports the transfer of research results to science, business and society. It creates significant added value for different user groups, promotes dissemination and at the same time increases the visibility of Aalen University as a research-orientated institution. In doing so, it strives for a broad, open and generally understandable communication of scientific findings and results.

Aalen University is strongly committed to provide open access to scientific knowledge and supports the expansion and implementation of Open Access at the university as follows:

1. It encourages its members to submit research results to peer-reviewed open access journals with high quality assurance standards and to publish monographs and collective works in open access publishing houses or on open access platforms.
2. Aalen University recommends that all members of the university publish under Open Access with an open licence (preferably CC BY), provided that there are no legal conditions or agreements to the contrary. This applies to primary publications and other publications by publishers as well as to documents and papers independent of publishers that are included in the repository OPUS of Aalen University.
3. The university welcomes it if its members also publish previously published academic work its OPUS repository within the scope of the secondary publication right.

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<sup>1</sup> See the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities:  
<https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berlin-Declaration>

4. In case of publishing in restricted-access publications, Aalen University recommends waiving the assignment of exclusive rights of use and securing a simple right of use for public access.

5. Aalen University advises its authors to register with ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) and to use the author and contributor identifier. This guarantees a clear link between persons and publications, research data and Aalen University.

6. Data and copyright protection as well as compliance with the rules of good scientific practice must be guaranteed for publications (see Aalen University's statutes on safeguarding good scientific practice and statutes on the procedure for dealing with scientific misconduct). Similarly, the interests of its members, co-operation partners and clients of Aalen University should be protected.

7. Aalen University recommends that its members examine the possibility of creating Open Educational Resources (OER) and publishing them on OER platforms. This enables free access to educational materials as well as their use, editing and dissemination by others.

8. Freedom of publication and research as well as the free choice of publication channels are not restricted by this Open Access Policy.

9. Aalen university contributes to Open Access publication costs incurred within the scope of its financial possibilities and has set up a publication fund for this purpose.

10. The library is in charge regarding questions about open access and publishing in the OPUS repository. It provides regularly information on developments in the field of Open Access. It offers support to university members support, for example by providing information or advice on funding opportunities. Enquiries can be directed to: [openaccess@hs-aalen.de](mailto:openaccess@hs-aalen.de).

11. The library annually documents the number of open access publications by university members, the number of accesses to the OPUS repository and the utilisation of financial support from the publication fund and other funding options.