Simon Fraser University Open Access Policy

Preamble
Simon Fraser University’s goal to be Canada’s most engaged research university invites us to find ways of sharing the research output and creative work of the University with the wider community. The University is therefore committed to making accessible and preserving the products of research with the broadest possible community, including other scholars, practitioners, policy makers, and the public at large.

Scholarly journals remain the primary means of disseminating research results in most academic disciplines, however, most do not allow public access. Depositing these articles in an open access repository would provide such access, while simultaneously showcasing this work to the world, increasing its impact, creating a collective archive of SFU’s research output, and making more visible the products of our work.

In keeping with this commitment to increased access, faculty members, students, and post-doctoral fellows, comprising a group referred to here as “university authors*,” adopt the following policy:

Policy
As university authors at Simon Fraser University we commit to share the products of our work with the broadest possible audience. To do so, we agree to archive and disseminate the scholarly articles we author by depositing these with the University.

We commit to deposit all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while we are university authors at SFU, although this policy does not cover any articles published before the adoption of this policy, any articles for which the author entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy, or any articles published after we leave the university.

To facilitate the archiving of our work, we grant Simon Fraser University the nonexclusive permission to archive, preserve, reproduce and openly disseminate, in any medium, all scholarly articles authored by us, provided that the articles are properly attributed to the authors, and that it is done for non-commercial purposes.

We agree to freely provide an electronic copy of the final version of each article no later than the date of its publication to the Simon Fraser University Library. The Library will make the article available to the public, taking into consideration requirements for access delay.

While we believe the open dissemination of research is an ethical imperative, we also recognize that university authors maintain full control of their intellectual property, and in some cases may not be able to share their work in an open access repository. Individual university authors may obtain a waiver in these cases.

This policy is aspirational, and intended to encourage open access to scholarly work. While the University expects authors to participate, no University sanctions will result from failure to comply. This policy is to be read and interpreted in a manner consistent with University policies related to academic freedom and intellectual property.

The VP Research, in consultation with the University Librarian, will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to Senate periodically.

The policy will be reviewed after three years and a report presented to Senate.

* We respectfully acknowledge that many members of SFU staff also author academic papers. These are also welcome for deposit.