Rector’s decision on 27 October 2016

Open science and research at the University of Tampere: a publication and data policy

In its research and education, the University of Tampere adheres to good scientific practice and the principles of open science and research when research data is made open and research results are published. Good scientific practice has been defined in the Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland (RCR guidelines) issued by the Finnish Advisory Board for Research Integrity (2012).

Openness supports research and the development of the scientific community by

- improving and safeguarding the quality of scientific knowledge
- strengthening the reliability and transparency of research
- increasing the opportunities for using scientific knowledge and scientific research methods in research, teaching and studying
- enabling and enriching cooperation between researchers and by increasing the impact of science on society

Researchers at the University of Tampere actively work as scientific experts in their fields and on their research topics and participate in the public debate.

Publishing research results in high-quality forums is regarded as a scientific merit for both the researcher and the University. Disseminating the research results widely and making them available free of charge (Open Access, OA) improves the University’s good reputation.

Producing reliable, high-quality research data is a researcher’s basic skill. Opening research data to others is a scientific merit for the researcher and may increase the number of references that cite his or her publications.

Many financiers specify that the projects they fund should open the research data gathered in the research project and encourage researchers to openly publish their research results.

Publication policy

1. The University promotes the dissemination of scientific knowledge among scientists and the whole society in both Finland and internationally.
2. The University’s researchers publish their research results in highly esteemed and high-quality peer-reviewed forums.
3. Scientific publications are made open whenever possible (Rector’s decision on 11 March 2016). Here, scientific publications mean articles in scientific journals, series, books and conference reports, monographs, Master’s and Licentiate’s theses, and doctoral dissertations.
4. The publications are saved as parallel publications in TamPub, the open institutional repository of the University of Tampere whenever the deal with the publisher allows it (Rector’s decision on 11 March 2016, so called green OA).
Copyright permitting, the publications may also be published in other such archives in addition to the University’s own repository.

5. The University encourages publication in high-quality peer-reviewed scientific Open Access journals (so called golden OA).

6. For justified reasons, the University's researchers may also publish in publications charging a fee provided they buy the open access rights to their single articles (so called hybrid publishing). However, this type of publishing results in significant overlapping costs.

7. The researchers also present their research and its results in other forums such as the popular media, trade publications, online platforms and social media.

Data policy

1. This data policy concerns the digital research data produced in scientific research.

2. Researchers produce, store and open research data according to laws, other stipulations and guidelines, ethical principles and separate agreements.

3. Research data produced in publicly funded research is open unless there are justified reasons for making a written agreement stating otherwise. Public datasets are made open and easily accessible. The related expenses are taken into account in the research outline and the budget of the research.

4. The openness of research data does not eliminate the possibility of charging a fee for datasets that are separately formed from it.

5. As they are planning their research, researchers also formulate a data management plan, which includes a general description of the data and details the data gathering and management methods, storage during the study, anonymising the data, long-term storage or destruction of the data, opening the data for use by others, and publication. The data management plan should also take into account the specifications of the research funders.

6. The research data is stored and reported in a way that enables subsequent verification and reproducibility of the research. In order to enable its further use, the researcher produces sufficient metadata describing the research data.

7. The digital research data produced at the University of Tampere is placed in long-term storage especially in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD). Data that is unsuited to being stored at FSD should be stored in a safe field-specific national or international data service.

Support services for open data and open publishing

1. Research groups, research centres and doctoral programmes should make sure that especially young researchers and researchers newly arrived at the University are explained good scientific practice and the University’s publication and data policy and that they receive sufficient supervision.

2. The University Library supports the researchers in open access publishing and offers support services for parallel publication.

3. The Finnish Social Science Data Archive supports the responsible opening of research data, takes care of the long-term access to the datasets stored in the archive and sends the data description files to several national and international databases.
4. The TUULI open science service should be used for data management planning. The University Library helps the researchers and monitors in the use of the TUULI service.

5. The Data Management Guidelines of the Finnish Social Science Data Archive provide instructions on good data management and anonymisation. FSD may also help in the anonymisation of the data stored in it.

6. The University’s Press and Information Office provides expert services in popular scientific communications.