

Open Access Publishing

This Vice-Rector's instruction is issued to motivate scientists and academicians to actively seek to expand Open Access (hereinafter referred to as the "OA") publishing and dissemination of scientific knowledge, and to adhere to ethical and scientific standards in the selection of publishing media. By issuing this instruction, the University of Hradec Králové (hereinafter referred to as the "UHK") seeks to ensure that open scientific research and the sharing of scientific knowledge is promoted in line with efforts to increase the accessibility of scientific publications, as well as with respect to compliance with ethical and scientific standards.

Article I.

General rules

- 1) The UHK provides support and encourages its researchers and academicians to publish research papers in the OA mode.
- 2) The OA publications are the preferred choice for publishing research articles, monographs, conference papers, and other scientific papers.

Article II.

Researchers and academicians

- 1) Researchers and academicians are motivated to select reputable OA journals and publishers that meet quality standards and integrity of scientific publications with the aim to disseminate more widely their results of research and development and, consequently, to increase the number of citations received by such publications. Higher citation rates are also reflected in the evaluation criteria for, e.g., procedures to attain associate and full professorship or accreditation materials.
- 2) The UHK requires researchers and academicians to respect third-party copyright, prioritising the use of open licences such as Creative Commons, and encourages scientific dialogue and knowledge sharing with the whole community.

Article III.

Predatory journals

- 1) The UHK does not support publishing in predatory journals or publishing houses that do not respect sufficiently the ethical and scientific standards.
- 2) The basic characteristics of predatory journals are listed, for example, on the websites of Masaryk University or Czech Technical University. In case of ambiguity, the quality of the target journal should be consulted in advance with the Vice-Dean for Science and Research of the faculty concerned.

Article IV.

Financial support

- 1) The UHK provides financial support and technical infrastructure to ensure OA publications, including coverage of publication costs at publishing houses that require fees from authors, as well as additional support for archiving scientific papers in open repositories.
- 2) The UHK is part of the [CzechElib](#) project. Within the framework of this project, it can draw free tokens that allow publishing in the OA mode without “*Article Processing Charges*” (hereinafter referred to as the “APC”). For the publishers with limited number of tokens, the use of tokens is subject to approval. The actual list of free tokens is available at the website of the Open Science Office ([OA Support at the UHK](#)).
- 3) A designated employee of the UHK University Library serves as a contact person for the allocation of free tokens within CzechElib. He/she contacts the relevant Vice-Dean for Science and Research of the faculty concerned and the Vice-Rector for Science, Research and Knowledge Transfer to ask if they agree to the allocation of the free token. Then he/she forwards this information to the National Library of Technology.

Article V.

UHK Library

- 1) The UHK Library collaborates actively with researchers and academicians to identify appropriate OA resources and publications, and provides consulting and training on electronic information sources, predatory journals and publishing houses and copyright and license management.

Article VI.

PBD

- 1) The information on OA publishing is also reflected in the Assessment of Research Institutions. They are filled in the Personal Bibliographic Database (PBD) and then sent to the Results Information Register (RIV).

Article VII.

Open Access in the context of Open Science and research projects

- 1) In order to ensure the visibility and accessibility of the results of projects financed from public funds and the possibility of a transparent evaluation of the impact of individual programmes on the development of science, technology and society, the European Commission and Czech grant agencies (e.g., the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic or the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic) have long promoted the provision of open access to research results. In some research support programmes, rules are in place to make publications and research data available in the OA mode and projects are evaluated according to the openness of publications and not, for example, according to the impact factor, i.e. according to the prediction of citation response only.
- 2) The arrangement of the data management (preparation and regular updating of the data management plan) and information on the availability and dissemination of research results and research data in accordance with the principle that research results and research data are not made public in justified cases only is one of the obligations arising from the contract between the provider and the recipient of special purpose support.
- 3) It is not necessary to publish the research data and its metadata until one year after the end of the support (the duration of the deferral period varies depending on the conditions of each funder). The aim of the deferred publication and the possibility to make use of these exemptions is to ensure a balance between the public interest and the legitimate interests of the beneficiary and third parties (e.g., to allow the commercialisation of scientific results).
- 4) Support and implementation of the principles of open science at the UHK is provided by the [Open Science Office](#) which also provides advice in this area in the form of consultations, training and educational materials.

Article VIII.

Final provisions

This instruction replaces the Vice-Rector's Instruction No. 09/2023.

This instruction shall come into force and effect on 28 April 2025.

In Hradec Králové on 28 April 2025

Assoc. prof. Ing. Hana Tomášková, Ph.D.
Vice-Rector for Science, Research and Knowledge Transfer

Intended for: All UHK employees and students of doctoral study programmes