

Overview of SNSF Guidelines on Open Access

(Last updated: 16.05.2014)

<p>Obligation for Open Access (Principle)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rules of the SNSF require grantees to make their research results available in an Open Access publication. This obligation applies both to journal articles and book publications that result from SNSF-funded research projects; it may be fulfilled either via the Green or the Gold Road (see below).
<p>Journal articles</p>	
<p>Green road of Open Access Self-archiving in an institutional repository or repository of a specific discipline, or on your personal website, is an additional step to publication in a journal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal articles resulting from SNSF-funded research projects must be freely accessible in a discipline-specific or institutional repository no later than 6 months after publication in a traditional medium. The OA commitment of the SNSF does not limit the grantees' freedom to choose a publishing partner. They can choose the most suitable journal by themselves. However, if the choice of journal creates legal obstacles (exploitation rights) with regard to an Open Access publication, the SNSF must be informed of the fact that the OA commitment will only be fulfilled at a later stage or not at all.
<p>Gold Road of Open Access Direct publication in a purely Open Access journal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SNSF supports researchers in making journal articles resulting from SNSF-funded projects freely available via the Green Road. For the duration of the project, the costs of publication in a purely Open Access journal with an academically acknowledged level of quality can be claimed from the agreed project funding up to a limit of CHF 3000 per publication. The publication must be related to the SNSF grant or, in the case of follow-up grants, to the preceding application. This measure will come into effect on 1 October 2013 and is provisionally limited until 31 December 2016. It applies equally to projects that are already running on 1 October 2013. In the case of new applications, the OA publication can be included in the proposal, although this is not mandatory and no formal request is required. In the case of existing applications, the costs of OA publication may be claimed as long as sufficient funds are available in the budget.
<p>Hybrid Open Access For a fee, release for Open Access of a publication already published in a journal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SNSF does not support hybrid OA. The costs are duplicated and cannot be controlled by the SNSF: the author is required to pay a relatively high publication fee while the publisher additionally sells access licences to libraries at prices that are often just as high. Price reductions for subscriptions are generally to be regarded as positive; however, the SNSF cannot assess whether they are appropriate. The costs of hybrid OA publications must always be borne by the researchers.

Book publications	
Book publications whose production is not co-financed by the SNSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book publications resulting from SNSF research projects whose production is not co-financed by the SNSF must be freely accessible in a discipline-specific or institutional repository no later than 24 months after publication with a publishing partner (Green Road). • The OA commitment of the SNSF does not limit the grantees' freedom to choose a publishing partner. They can choose the most suitable publisher by themselves. However, if the choice of publisher creates legal obstacles (exploitation rights) with regard to an Open Access publication, the SNSF must be informed of the fact that the OA commitment will only be fulfilled at a later stage or not at all.
Book publications whose production is co-financed by the SNSF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By contributing towards the publication costs (see a) and b)), the SNSF supports the researchers in making book publications freely accessible digitally and via the Green Road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) As of 1 July 2014, the costs of Open Access book publications may be claimed as eligible costs in the application for an SNSF project grant (pursuant to Article 19 of the Funding Regulations). b) As of 1 July 2014, the SNSF will award publication grants upon request to cover the costs of Open Access book publications of research results that were not generated within the scope of a project funded by the SNSF (independent publication grants) • Digital book publications whose production is co-financed by the SNSF must be made accessible in a disciplinary or institutional repository after an embargo period of no more than 24 months (Green Road of Open Access). • If OA publication is not possible for insurmountable legal and technical reasons, the SNSF may upon request approve a text-only OA publication or release the authors from this duty altogether.
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of the fulfillment of the OA commitment must be provided in the scientific reporting. Furthermore, researchers will be asked in the context of output monitoring to indicate which of their publications relating to SNSF-funded research activity are accessible through Open Access, and to provide links to these. • The costs of the Open Access publication will be reported within the scope of the financial reporting in line with the existing procedure for eligible costs.