



Covenant University

Ota, Canaan Land, Ogun State, Nigeria



OPEN ACCESS POLICY FOR SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION AT COVENANT UNIVERSITY

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Open Access Policy For Scholarly Communication at Covenant University

Policy for the sustainable operations of Open access activities in Covenant University.

Open Overview

Covenant University encourages her researchers/investigators/consultants to be involved in researches/investigation/consultations that are solution-based and public-oriented and whether publicly, privately or corporately funded ensure that such works, whether scientific research results, arts works or documentary work (video/audio) or cultural compilation whether organic or electronic (print/audiovisual) be made accessible to all for the good and benefit of all. While not undermining the utilization of such output by the financier/sponsor(s) of such works, the researcher/investigator/consultant should endeavour to pursue the accessibility by all, through open access avenues and in particular such open access platform as provided by Covenant University.

Preamble

The output of a scientific work and research findings in all its ramifications is the greatest asset of a researcher/investigator. The immediate and open access of all others to this information except where some part of such data is for specific purposes that may undermine the researcher/investigator originality. This is because continued innovations, improvements and developments are severely hindered unless researchers/investigators are able to share new knowledge as soon as it has been established.

As a public-oriented institution, Covenant University (CU) has a duty to disseminate to the general public her research and community target investigations. Similarly, public and private institutions seek information always that will allow them find appropriate collaborators in their efforts and projects, CU hope to gainfully engage in such collaborations.

Covenant University strive for excellence in researches, whether basic or applied and therefore pursues a publishing policy that is in line with the 2003 Berlin Declaration on Open Access to knowledge; which is unrestricted access to information housed within the institution repositories.

Objectives

To provide open access to scientific data and research results; that include but not exclusive to full-text versions of all papers and articles, poster sessions, presentations, and any form of creative works generated by any member of the CU community insofar they provide useable documentation of substantial research results and data in electronic format.

To allow unrestricted access to all publications to read, search, download, copy, distribute, print, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose through free availability on the public internet.

To ensure authors and contributors have the appropriate copyright to allow these activities, and to ensure that such copyright/licence permits authors/contributors **only** control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.

To ensure the copyright/licence holder have proper understanding and apply the copyright/licence and **must** consent in advance to let users "copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship.

To provide the legal basis for Covenant University to preserve the works of members of the CU community and her scholars in a permanent digital repository and to provide access to these works to anyone who seeks it.

To serve the faculty's interests by allowing articles to receive open distribution, simplifying author's retention of distribution rights, aiding preservation, and providing unified action to discourage publishers from rejecting articles because they will be available in open access platforms. In any case, in which the license works against the interest of a faculty member, the policy allows for waiver of the license or delay of distribution.

To ensure the workings of the policy will not result in more work for the faculty, and it is worth a relatively small investment because, in many fields, works published in journals is not accessible to those who do not subscribe to the journal or whose libraries have not subscribed.

Submission/Deposition and Management

The Faculty of Covenant University are committed to disseminating the fruits of their research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with that commitment, the Faculty adopts the following policy:

- i. Covenant University shall have a functional [institution repository operations policy](#) (IROP) that will guide the various aspects of submission of materials, accessing and uses of the deposits in the IR. The IROP outlines the organs and operational modalities for the management of the Institution's Repository.

- ii. Each Faculty member is ***encouraged to retain ownership of the copyright of published papers where possible***. Each Faculty member/investigator grants to Covenant University permission to make available his or her scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles. More specifically, each Faculty member grants to Covenant University a non-exclusive, irrevocable, worldwide license to exercise any/and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, and to authorize others to do the same, and authorship is fully credited.
- iii. The policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the faculty except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the Faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy.
- iv. The Vice Chancellor or Vice Chancellor's designate will waive the application of the license for a particular article or delay access for a specified period upon express directives by a Faculty member.
- v. Each Faculty member will provide an electronic copy of the author's final version of each article no later than 180 days after the date of its publication at no charge to the appropriate representative of the Vice Chancellor's Office in an appropriate format (such as PDF) specified by the Vice Chancellor's Office. The Vice Chancellor's Office may make the article available to the public through the institutional open-access repository (CUSpace).
- vi. The repository will be required to expose from the time of deposition of the research paper the metadata (title, authors, institutional affiliation, and name of journal that has accepted/published the paper).
- vii. The Office of the Vice Chancellor through its appropriate designate/office/units/officers will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to the faculty from time to time.

Implementation

CU is committed to providing necessary financial, organizational, and non-material support that will allow the concept of Open Access work under optimum conditions.

CU is committed to and will pursue the publishing of scientific papers in recognized, peer-reviewed, open-access journals or on other open access platforms.

If papers were/are published in media that are not readily accessible to the public, or that have subscription or other forms of payment, copies shall be made available through the CUSpace

(Institutional repository) as "CU ePrints". In such cases where required by the publishing house, an embargo of not more than one year **may be** respected.

To ensure the widest distribution and dissemination the institution's research findings, publications tagged "CU ePrints" may be freely copied, distributed, or otherwise made available to the public.

Members of the CU community are encouraged to choose the best possible mode of publication of their research findings in terms of readership and accessibility. They are expressly required to demand that publishing houses grant them the right to further use their own works.

Management and leadership take a proactive stance in encouraging and enabling members of the CU community in their charge to use Open Access publishing outlets/platforms; in the present and future works and through reprints in previously issued articles.

Authors/contributors will receive full range of assistance from institutional specialized information managers, assigned particularly for such functions and supported from central service departments, including but not exclusive to the CSIS (ICT) and CLR (library) directorates.

The CU repository managed through the CUSpace will be built to meet international standards, to ensure long-term, worldwide access to the documents archived. To optimize the visibility of its research findings, Covenant University aims to establish close links with other repositories, both local and international.

Covenant University will in co-operation with other educational institutions and bodies as well as the Nigerian and global research communities, pursue the official recognition of Open Access publishing and its other aspects to society and governance on a national and regional scale.

Adoption and Review

This policy will be adopted after satisfactory reviews by all relevant organs such as, but not exclusive to a composited committee and the legal department. The policy will be subject to review after every three years.

This policy's adoption and the future reviews will be presented through a report by the Vice Chancellor to the University Senate and finally to the CU community.