

# Open Access Policy at Leibniz-IWT

## (As of May 2026)

### Preamble

As a future-oriented and internationally established research institute, the topic of open access has long been a significant part of our general publication concept. In the course of knowledge transfer, digitization strategies and quality assurance, freely accessible research results bring new challenges and standards, but above all great opportunities. In addition to the constant enrichment of the scientific discourse by new research topics and results, publications in the form of open access also offer the possibility to make innovative (new) research fields and the high interdisciplinarity of our institute more and more visible. Here, Leibniz-IWT is guided primarily by the [principles](#) set by the Leibniz Association.

In 2025, Leibniz-IWT published altogether 76 % of its publications also or exclusively as open access. The Institute aims to secure the consistently high open access rate and to further publish open access articles in renowned journals. In 2024, the institute also joined the DEAL consortium, which provides Leibniz-IWT with centrally negotiated terms, comprehensive access to articles, and cost savings in publishing.

In order to assess the topic for one's own research work at Leibniz-IWT as well as for a transparent presentation of the institute's values, this document is intended to provide both orientation and concrete points of reference. With regard to further development in dealing with open access (hereafter abbreviated as "OA"), new objectives and measures are to be listed here in addition to the status quo, which the Institute intends to comply with in the coming years.

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### Guiding Principle

- OA publications comply with the principle of making publicly funded research publicly available and thus follow the demand for the greatest possible transparency for the general public. Sharing scientific knowledge and communicating it to a broad audience is firmly embedded in the institute's culture as part of sound scientific practice.
- OA publications represent a future-oriented value for the Institute and for this reason deserve special attention and support. Even with an internationally increasing publication rate and rising volume of journal articles, a high scientific standard can be ensured by peer review procedures. Therefore, publications in peer reviewed media are strongly encouraged.
- In this context, OA Gold publications in media that are also listed in the [directory of open access journals & articles \(DOAJ\)](#) are particularly endorsed.



- Open Access (OA) publications (specifically the “Golden Road,” i.e., open-access first publication in journals, as a monograph, or as a chapter in an edited volume) represent the Institute’s preferred publication route, particularly for peer-reviewed journal articles (DFG Category A).
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## **Existing Measures and Regulations**



### **Internal Structure and Equipment**

- Through participation in the DEAL consortium, all research staff can publish in participating journals from Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley (OA). Staff also have read access to a wide range of journals from these publishers via the department’s IP address. Further information regarding DEAL procedures is provided in a separate internal guide.
- Leibniz-IWT maintains an internal publication database with the EndNote system, in which (OA) publications are recorded and can be statistically evaluated.
- The internal accessibility of almost all of the institute's own publications in EndNote can be seen as an incentive for publication in internationally established OA media. The added value can here be experienced internally on a small scale.
- The editorial staff in the science communication working group support scientific colleagues with literature research and with information about the peer review process and publication practices.
- In the case of publications without a project-related agreement for publishing, the freedom of decision regarding format, medium, form of publication lies with the authors.
- Researchers are encouraged to publish carefully prepared articles in OA format by their respective supervisors and are supported in the conceptualization of the publication.
- In select cases, significant previously published works are made freely available via the “Green OA route” (i.e., as a secondary publication in OA format following prior “closed access”) – while carefully adhering to contractual requirements.
- The institute also has experienced and trained colleagues available as points of contact for issues related to Open Science, Open Data, and Good Scientific Practice.
- Data collection and statistics in EndNote and in central data repositories (e.g., the Leibniz Association’s “Pact Monitoring Report”) are conducted according to uniform and clear criteria in order to regularly evaluate the volume of publications.

## **Working Groups, Memberships and Project Work**

- Staff members of Leibniz-IWT exchange information with other institutes via working groups of the Leibniz Association, so that there is a flow of information regarding established procedures ("best practices"). In the field of publishing, the institute is a member, among others, of the working group "Libraries" and the working group "Open Access".
- The close connection to the University of Bremen and the MAPEX Center for Materials and Processes provides further OA offers to fall back on.
- Participation in the Leibniz Fund also enables the funding of OA publications and, at the same time, their provision in Leibniz's internal publication portal "Leibniz-Open".
- In the case of project-related funding, OA publication is usually explicitly intended and should be a clear focus of the project-related work. One example is the assumption of publication costs for BMBF-funded projects (post-grant funds), another example are EU-funded projects where only OA must be published.
- Scientists are also actively involved in OA media such as journals, for example as editors or reviewers.

## **Internal Financial Support**

- Generally, research contributions of overriding interest in the sense of special scientific achievements that are published in renowned specialist media can draw on an OA budget in order to achieve the greatest possible impact.
  - For OA publications that exceed 1,000 euros in costs, funding will be provided to realize the publication.
  - Publications spanning several program areas are of outstanding importance for the interdisciplinary structure of the institute and are therefore particularly supported. For this purpose, the institute has a reward system at its disposal. For this performance bonus, the DFG's "Category A" requirement (high-quality contributions with peer review) must be met.
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## **Aims/Vision**

- In the future, the creation of publications will be carried out hand in hand with central research data management.
- In the future, Leibniz-IWT plans to further strengthen communication channels and training opportunities regarding publishing and publication procedures, particularly in light of the naturally high staff turnover at the institute.

