Open Access at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Iva Burešová*
Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Library
E-mail: buresova@knav.cz

Abstract:

The introduction of this paper briefly explains the Open Access (OA) policy (with a short history) of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR), including basic principles of OA publishing at the ASCR, which is a signatory of the Berlin Declaration of 2008. In 2009, the Academy of Sciences adopted the OA policy and this policy applies to all scholarly and scientific articles written by scientists of the Academy, except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy.

The section which follows deals with the active support of "Gold" Open Access publishing, i.e., a fund created in 2010 for OA publishing the work of authors at the Academy of Sciences and other work performed by the Library and Academy of Sciences in this area.

The last section covers the activities of the ASCR’s Library pertaining to institutional repository and storage and also copyright laws and negotiations with publishers.

The repository was created as an extension of the Automatic System of Publication Data Evidence (ASEP) database system which is used for archiving publication outputs of ASCR Institutes. The Academy’s Library has coordinated data collecting of publications and results of basic research in ASCR since 1993. On January 2, 2012, the ASEP database became the Institutional Repository of the ASCR. It facilitates adding full texts to all bibliographic records to the database while respecting the publishers’ policy. Of 54 institutes affiliated with the Academy of Sciences, during 2012 26 signed a contract to archive full texts in the repository. After one year, nearly 3,000 full texts are available.

* In 2008, Ms. Buresova completed a master’s degree at the Institute of Information and Library Studies of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague. Her thesis was "BioMed Central Publishing and freely available online journals (including journals of Czech origin).” Since 2005, she has been working at the Library of the ASCR, v.v.i., in the Department of Electronic Information Resources, which is responsible for managing electronic information resources and providing information services in the Electronic Information Resources Department. Her main area of research interest is Open Access to scientific information. Most of her journal articles and lectures are focussed on this field.
Currently, the Academy's Library negotiates with publishers of journals in which articles by Czech scientists appear most frequently. The contract concluded with the U.K. publisher Elsevier Ltd. allows systematic storing in the Institutional Repository including, e.g., titles of embargoed articles freely available to users after the temporary proscription ends.

Keywords:

Introduction
The Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, established in 1992, continues the research traditions and mission not only of the former Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences but also of its predecessors. The oldest, long-lasting learned society was the Royal Czech Society of Sciences (functioning under different names from 1784 to 1952) which encompassed both the humanities and the natural sciences. The primary mission of ASCR and its institutes is to conduct basic research within the broad spectrum of the natural, technical and social sciences and the humanities. A fundamental part of the mission is to ensure that the published work of its scientists can be read and utilised by the widest possible audience. Research conducted by the ASCR endeavours to advance scientific knowledge on an international scale while at the same time respecting the current needs of Czech society. The Academy’s supreme autonomous body is the Academy Assembly. The executive body of the ASCR is the Academy Council headed by the President of the Academy. Its permanent advisory body is the Council for Sciences, which deals with the scientific policy of the ASCR. Members of these academic bodies are elected for four-year periods.

The Academy of Sciences is comprised of 54 public research institutes and each one is a separate legal entity. The ASCR has more than 7,000 employees, including 3,500 researchers. Institutes publish more than 70 scientific journals in which more than 3,000 articles are published in any given year. Researchers also publish more than 11,000 articles, reports etc. annually in other journals.
Open Access policy

The introductory part of this paper explains the Open Access policy of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and briefly presents the basic principles of OA publishing at the ASCR. The ASCR is a signatory of the Berlin Declaration of 2008. In 2009, the ASCR adopted the following OA policy: each Academy employee grants to the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic nonexclusive permission in legal terms to make available to OA his or her scholarly articles in any medium. This policy applies to all scholarly and professional articles written while the person is an employee of the Academy, except for any articles completed before the adoption of this policy.

The Academy’s Open Access Policy was approved at the 21st meeting of its Academic Council on 14 October 2010. It declares that:

• “The primary mission of the ASCR and its individual workplaces is the realisation of high-quality research in a wide range of natural, technical, social sciences and the humanities. An essential part of its mission is to ensure that results of scientific work of the Academy and its institutes can be used by the widest possible community of scientists, other users of research results, and the general public. The ASCR attempts to disseminate results of this research as widely as possible.

• Institutes of the ASCR are obliged to provide the ASCR Library copies of their works and in particular the non-exclusive right to unlimited reproduction of them. Included is the right to communicate the work to the public adhering to the Legal Code of the Czech Republic, taking into account any prospective licence agreements with publishers. The policy obligates Academy institutes to ensure that their scientists' patrimonial rights to such works are not violated.

• Examples of works included in this policy are: published scientific articles, books or chapters of books, presentations, reports or pedagogical materials, etc.

• Publication outputs will be provided in electronic form. The ASCR Library will ensure that they are deposited in the Institutional Repository and made available to the public as soon as possible, except when certain publishers place publication embargos on these works (i.e., a period when an article is unavailable to the public).”

The Academy Library will be responsible for interpretation and dissemination of this publication policy and the information infrastructure.
“Gold” Open Access Fund

“Gold” Open Access publishing is a fund created in 2010 for OA publishing authors at the Academy of Sciences. Scholarly publishing has many business models for OA journals; e.g., a few charge publication fees which are paid by authors or by their funding agencies or employers. Gold OA journals author fees cover the cost of publishing; PLoS fees vary from $1,350 to $2,900 in lieu of the reader subscription fees. If the subscription publication prevails, the institutional funds that pay Gold OA publication fees cover subscriptions to the journals their institutional users need to access them. It is not possible to cancel them unless those user access needs can be fulfilled by some alternative means of access. An eventual alternative means of access for users at subscribing institutions which allows their institutions to cancel their subscriptions and exempts them from paying the Gold OA publication fees will be the global adoption of Green OA self-archiving mandates by all institutions and funders.

The Gold OA fund was approved by Academy of Sciences with the Open Access policy in 2010. The fund has been operating since 2011 with an annual subsidy 1,000,000 CZK (40,000€) and ongoing support is anticipated in the future.

Grants from this fund are available only to ASCR authors who are publishing as institute employees. Other conditions the authors required to meet include:
The OA journal in question must be included in one of these databases -- WoS, Scopus or ERIH -- and must not have a hybrid publishing model (this condition was included in 2012 when the ASEP database became the Institutional Repository of the ASCR).

Applications are received in the web form and include an electronic copy of the letter confirming acceptance of the article for publishing, the first page of the article and the workplace of the author and confirmation of payment. Maximum support for one article is 25,000 CZK (1,000€).

Each year, the Academy of Sciences supports about 50 applications, 90 percent being from authors of the Life and Chemical Sciences. Scientists of the Humanities and Social Sciences have not yet applied.

---

The hybrid open-access journal refers to a journal where only some of the articles are open access.
Institutional Repository

Responsibilities of the Institutional Repository of ASCR Library include storage and also copyright law and negotiations with publishers. The ASCR Legal Department analyzes agreements which the authors conclude with publishers and these agreements are also compared with data in the database SHERPA/RoMEO.

The repository is an extension of the ASEP database system used for archiving publication outputs of ASCR institutions. The Academy of Sciences Library has coordinated data collection of publications and results of basic research at ASCR institutes since 1993. On January 2, 2012, the ASEP database became the Institutional Repository of the ASCR. It facilitates adding full texts to all bibliographic records in the database while respecting the publishers’ policy. This paper clarifies searching for a suitable system, the legal clarity of archiving and the final repository workflow in the Institutional Repository of the Academy of Sciences. Of 54 affiliated with the Academy, 27 institutes signed contracts on archiving full-texts in the repository during 2012. After 18 months, nearly 3,000 complete texts are available.


Articles in the repository have two forms of entry: “open access” and “request a copy”. The form of access is determined primarily on an analysis of ASCR authors’ contracts with publishers. Another way to decide the access form is data contained in the SHERPA/RoMEO database. An e-mail requesting disclosure of articles in the repository is sent to all co-authors of articles. Each co-author may request deleting articles in the repository.

All accessible full texts are available to directors and researchers of the author’s institute. Open access to the full text is only with the approval of the institute's data administrator and agreement of the co-author. Authors can embargo full texts available in OA mode before being available to the public. However, such texts can be requested by e-mail directly from the author.
Full texts are in the repository in three forms: 1) by approval (the data administrator has not set parameters); 2) by permission (the data administrator checks the full text and approves the parameter setting; co-authors are asked for permission to access the publication, but the full text is accessible only for co-authors and data administrator); 3) after the full text is published in the repository and it is available to all users.

While primarily scientific articles are stored, all kinds of research documents in any of their versions can be stored. The size of the file is not limited.
Works posted in the ASCR’s Institutional Repository are protected by Czech Act No. 121/2000 Coll., on Copyright and Rights Related to Copyright and on the Amendments to Certain Acts. The user is entitled to use the work for individual requirements but without direct or indirect economic personal benefit. Users are allowed to incorporate in their own work justified excerpts from published works of other authors, or smaller works in their entirety for critique or review for purposes of scientific or technical work, made in compliance with fair practices and required for a specific purpose.

Accessible work may also be used in teaching for illustration purposes or during scientific research, again without direct or indirect economic or commercial advantage and without
exceeding the extent adequate for a given purpose. In all cases, the name of the author, the title of the work and source must always to be indicated.

**Negotiations with publishers**

Currently, the Academy Library negotiates with publishers in whose journals articles by Academy authors are most frequently published. The contract concluded with Elsevier Ltd., e.g., allows systematic storing in in the Academy’s Institutional Repository, including a list of titles embargoed and when the article can be made freely available to users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>Publishers and number of articles published by ASCR’s authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elsevier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Springer-Verlag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wiley Blackwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>American Chemical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wiley-VCH Verlag Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taylor &amp; Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Institute of Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Blackwell Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>John Wiley and Sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>BioMed Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Royal Society of Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>American Institute of Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>American Nuclear Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Nature Publishing Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MAIK Nauka/Inteprodica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nr. 7 – Publishers and number of articles published by ASCR’s authors

**Conclusion**

Institutional repositories play a very important role in scholarly intercommunication and collaboration and there are many sources of information within the research arena where the user can search for information. However, discovery and retrieval of information is not always easy nor targeted and relevant.

The ASCR seeks to solve key research issues. Open access and knowledge management allows our end-users, researchers and scholars to optimise or even shorten the research cycle in innovative response to new global challenges.
Bibliography


2. ASEP Repozitář. _Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Library_, v. v. i. [online]. Prague, 2013 [2013-05-21]. Accessible at:


4. Dotace pro podporu publikování formou Open Access. _Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic Library_, v. v. i. [online]. Prague, 2013 [2013-05-21]. Accessible at:


6. Open Access Policy at the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. _Centre of Administration and Operations of the ASCR_, v. v. i. [online]. Prague, 2013 [2013-05-21]. Accessible at: