



Increasing the A in OA

How accessibility work in repositories should influence publisher agreements

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Open Repositories 2021

**MIT
Libraries**



Definitions

Open Access: “a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information **available to readers at no cost**”

Open Science: “is the movement to make scientific research and data **accessible to all**”

Accessibility: “when a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an **equally integrated and equally effective manner**, with substantially equivalent ease of use.”



Definitions

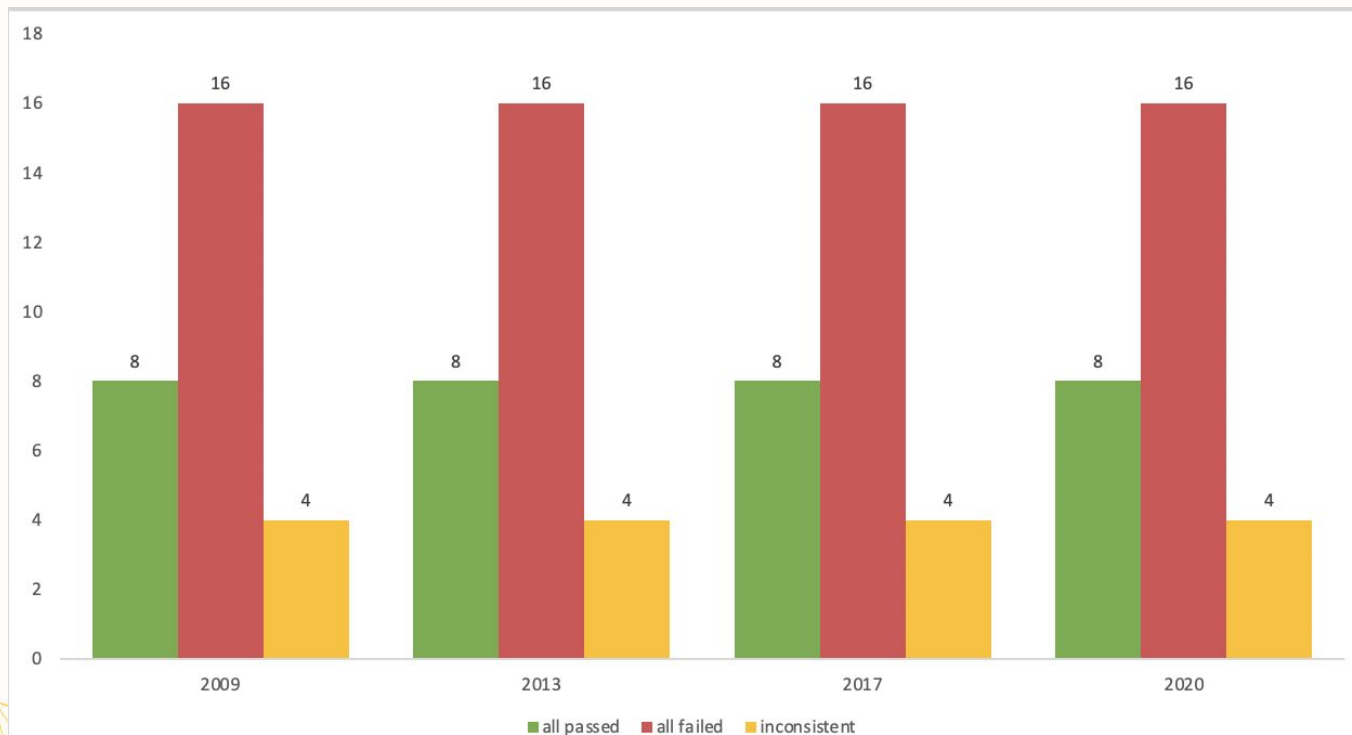
Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) - the final peer-reviewed version of an article before publisher copy editing and formatting is applied (**13,478** Items; **37.4%** of DSpace@MIT OA Articles)

Version of Record (VoR) - the version of an article put out by the publisher with copy editing and formatting (**20,860** items; **57.9%** of DSpace@MIT OA Articles)



Improvement over time?

It's exactly
the same,
year after
year!



Someone needs to take responsibility

Accessibility should be

Provided as a value-added service

AND/OR

Not inhibited by any publisher agreements



Accessibility takes a lot of work!!!

Some checks must be done by a human to be meaningful.

Carefully designed and implemented authoring/editing and file generating practices can go a long way, but not all the way



Accessibility approaches

Formats

- PDF/UA
- EPUB
- HTML (which some publishers already provide on their sites for gold OA articles)

Processing/Workflows

- Require accessible version on deposit
- Record accessibility compliance on deposit
- Offer remediation on request
- Remediate based on use



Do we have the rights?

Versions of Record

- **36.8%** licensed openly, allowing at least for non-commercial derivatives
- **59.3%** deposited under a publisher policy

Author Accepted Manuscripts

- **66%** licensed openly, allowing at least for non-commercial derivatives
- **20.9%** deposited under a publisher policy

Totals:

- **49.6%** licensed openly allowing at least non-commercial derivatives
- **42.6 %** deposited under a publisher policy



MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts

Core Principles

- No waivers
- Rights retention/Generous reuse rights
- Autodeposit
- Computational access
- Long-term digital preservation and access
- Transparent cost-based pricing for value-added services

<https://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/publishing/framework/>



Experimentation encouraged!

“The MIT Libraries negotiations team uses a principles based approach exploring all areas of the Framework, generating options, and seeking to advance mutual interests of both parties.”

– MIT Libraries Negotiations Team



Cost-based payments for value added services

YES to paying for something that costs the publisher additional money and provides a greater value to our users

NO to paying for the publisher to pass the work onto the authors

NO to paying year over year for the publishers to update a system once



Rights retention

Principle: No author will be required to relinquish copyright, but instead will be provided with options that enable publication while also providing authors with generous reuse rights.

Outcome: Authors and libraries have the rights to create and share more accessible derivatives



No OA policy waivers and Direct deposit

Principle: No author will be required to waive any institutional or funder open access policy to publish in any of the publisher's journals.

Principle: Publishers will directly deposit scholarly articles in institutional repositories immediately upon publication or will provide tools/mechanisms that facilitate immediate deposit.

Outcome: Deposited copies can fall under repository's accessibility efforts



Computational access

Principle: Publishers will provide computational access to subscribed content as a standard part of all contracts, with no restrictions on non-consumptive, computational analysis of the corpus of subscribed content.

Outcome: Many screen reader accessibility criteria increase the usefulness and meaningfulness of computational access to the content of articles



Next steps

- Transparent accessibility costs from publishers
- Rights retention and strong green OA, while repositories take on accessibility improvements
- Determine how to assess accessibility compliance (criteria, tools, processes, oversight)
- Continue to make improvements towards remediating existing inaccessible scholarly work



Related Resources

Jones, Caplehorne and Ben Watson. “Open or Ajar? And How We Blow The B****Y Doors Off!” November, 2020
<https://doi.org/10.23636/1232>

Schultz, Teresa, et al. “We’re Not in the Open Future Yet: Making Open Scholarship Accessible for All.” April 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6uDkWGTsdY>

Nganji, Julius T. “An assessment of the accessibility of PDF versions of selected journal articles published in a WCAG 2.0 era (2014-2018). August 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1197>

Vavrosky, Laura. “ Accessibility of Institutional Repository Content: Current Landscape and Ideas for a Path Forward.” December 2020. <https://doi.org/10.13028/nhev-rc71>.

Waugh, Laura, et al. “Accessibility in Institutional Repositories.” 2020 <https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/12389>

Hoops, Jenny and Margaret McLaughlin. “Web accessibility in the institutional repository crafting user centered submission policies.” June 2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjJ7b9t1zBE&list=PLfCwmKllu_VYZfssodxHZ66PJGkSZN4aI&index=23



References

Slide 2: Open Access definition from openaccess.nl, “What Is Open Access?” (accessed May 14, 2021)
<https://www.openaccess.nl/en/what-is-open-access>

Open Science definition from UNESCO, “Open Science Movement” (accessed May 14, 2021)
<https://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/portals-and-platforms/goap/open-science-movement/>

Accessibility definition from American Consortium for Equity in Education, “Understanding the definition of accessibility” (accessed May 14, 2021) <https://ace-ed.org/understanding-the-definition-of-accessibility/>

Slide 7: Hinderliter, Hal. “The #DLFteach Toolkit: Recommending EPUBs for Accessibility” (accessed May 14, 2021)
<https://www.diglib.org/the-dlfteach-toolkit-recommending-epubs-for-accessibility/>

Slide 9: MIT Libraries, “MIT Framework for Publisher Contracts” (accessed May 14, 2021)
<https://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly/publishing/framework/>

Slide 10: Personal correspondence with MIT Libraries Negotiations Team from May 25, 2021



Thank you!

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