

Responses to NRF OA Statement issued on 19 January 2015

1. Will our IR be harvested by the NRF or will researchers have to submit directly into a NRF repository? **NRF is to harvest metadata; researchers expected to deposit at their respective repositories.**
2. Do you have a specific standard that we will have to comply with in order to be harvested effectively? **NRF is developing a set of guidelines that will be shared with the stakeholder community in due course.**
3. Is there a set of guidelines/procedures for the authors/researchers? **NRF is developing a set of guidelines that will be shared with the stakeholder community in due course.**
4. The NRF statement indicates that research data needs to be deposited in an accredited repository and that the repository should make provision for a DOI. The repository makes use of the handle system to provide a persistent identifier for referencing. It is my assumption that a handle would be equally acceptable. Is this correct? **Handles will be equally acceptable, but DOI system preferred as it “utilises the Handle System as one component in building an added value application, for the persistent, semantically interoperable, identification of intellectual property entities” (<http://doi.org/factsheets/DOIHandle.html>).**
5. Please could you assist in defining what is meant by an 'accredited repository'? **NRF will provide guidelines in this regard.**
6. Is there a specific procedure in place for authors/research offices on reporting where the research has been submitted? For example: provide the web address where the research has been submitted. **NRF still to define the guidelines for authors (workshop and survey)**
7. Which IR's are accredited? **NRF to provide guidelines in this regard.**
8. What about the copyright form that we typically sign with the publishing journal? **Publishers' agreements (often titled “Copyright Transfer Agreement”) have traditionally been used to transfer copyright or key use rights from author to publisher. Many authors do not realize that when they sign this form they also shift their copyright to the publisher as well. In order to retain some rights to their works, they should attach an [author addendum](#) to the publisher's Copyright Transfer Agreement. The [Author Addendum](#) is a free resource developed by [SPARC](#) in partnership with [Creative Commons](#) and [Science Commons](#), non-profit organisations that offer a range of copyright options for many different creative endeavors.**

Author addendum examples:

- [MIT Amendment to Publication Agreement](#)
- [Washington University Customized Copyright Addendum](#)
- [Princeton University's Author Addendum to Publication Agreement](#)
- [Harvard University's Author Addendum to Publishing Agreement](#)

9. Why the decision to draft a position paper on open access?

The NRF is signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Science and Humanities. The issue of open access has gained impetus over the past years with international funding agencies such as the Global Research Council of which the NRF is a member. The NRF supports scientific research through public funding and in doing so contributes to growing the local knowledge economy, promoting innovation and stimulating appropriate development which benefits sharing and the reuse of research outputs. This statement brings the NRF into line with other international funding agencies.

10. Is this mandatory or researchers can opt for open access?

The OA statement attests that research outputs resulting from public funds must be made freely accessible and the NRF is committed to making the transition to open access as simple as possible. We are aware that compliance with research funders' open access mandates is becoming the norm internationally.

11. The position paper says recipients of NRF funding must deliver their peer reviewed manuscript to the administering institution repository. Which administering institution repository is the paper referring to? Is this the institution where the researcher is based or the NRF?

The administering institution repository is the one where the researcher is based (e.g. University).

12. If it's the researcher's institution, will the NRF fund universities and research institutions to create the repositories?

NRF will not fund the establishment of IR repositories. Most universities have established institutional repositories and resources to support the IR processes. If no institutional repository is immediately available to a researcher, this will need to be recorded in the grant Final Report.

13. Who should be funding the creation of the repositories?

It is the responsibility of the individual institutions together with their respective Library and Information Services.

14. How will other researchers access this repository if they want to read papers published by their peers who are funded by the NRF?

The established IRs are registered and linked to the Directory of Open Access Repositories (DOAR). NRF may, in time, provide a search facility based on harvested meta-data.

15. Why is there a 12-month embargo?

The 12 month embargo exists to provide allowances to publishers to sell their products after its initial publication for a period before making it freely available.

16. What happens when a publisher doesn't allow open access to a paper written by an NRF grantee?

The NRF acknowledges that researchers consider a range of factors when deciding on their publication outlets and we do not intend to place restrictions on nor enter into discussions with publishers. We encourage the use of open access outlets.

17. Should NRF grantees be publishing only in accredited open access journals?

Please explain your response : Ditto