

REPORT ON IARC OPEN ACCESS POLICY

1. The Agency's Open Access (OA) Policy went into effect on 1 January 2015. The policy applies when the lead or corresponding author is an Agency author or when the Agency takes a lead role in the project (e.g. funds the research).

2. In order to be able to carry out comparisons between pre- and post-OA implementation practices, OA status at the time of publication was determined for journal articles published in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Articles were subsequently tagged as "gold" (published in a fully OA journal), "hybrid" (published in a subscription journal with payment of an article processing charge, or APC, to make the article immediately available), and "standard publication" (publication in a subscription journal). The resulting data is limited, with 2014 as the sole baseline year and 2016 data incomplete at the time of reporting; however, it suggests that the OA policy has had a positive effect on the proportion of articles in subscription journals being made available immediately through the payment of APCs.

Table 1. Proportion of immediate open access to total journal output

	Gold (Fully OA journal)	Hybrid (APC payment in subscription journal)	Standard publication	TOTAL
2014	81 (21%)	25 (7%)	275 (72%)	381 (100%)
2015	78 (21%)	50 (13%)	252 (66%)	380 (100%)
2016*	53 (19%)	46 (16%)	181 (65%)	280 (100%)

*data as for 16 November 2016

3. In addition to the tracking of publications' OA status, implementation efforts have focused on staff instructional workshops, individual consultations, information sharing via the Agency's intranet, and procedural changes to facilitate OA publishing. The new manuscript clearance system launched in March 2016 automates staff requests for funding support from the Governing Council Special Fund for open access, which was established in May 2015 (see [Resolution GC/57/R11](#)) for a period of three years covering January 2015–December 2017.

4. The Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for OA funded five articles in 2015 and nine articles in 2016 to date, along with project support for the 2016 publication of a series of OA articles on Cancer in Central and South America in a supplement issue of *Cancer Epidemiology*. The remaining balance on this fund is approximately €64 000 as of mid-November 2016, and Agency authors are being encouraged to make their open access funding requests to the Director through the online clearance system.

5. To facilitate green OA by ensuring that Agency authors retain self-archiving as well as other key rights, requests for the establishment of standing agreements have been sent to selected major publishers. To date, standing agreements have been established with two publishers, for The Lancet and for Wiley titles.
6. The challenges of timely self-archiving of manuscripts in recognized repositories (green OA) remain. To some extent these challenges are mitigated by publisher workflows whereby publishers help authors comply with funders' OA policies by depositing articles and manuscripts in PubMed Central. Thus, while the Agency can improve its support for green OA by joining an institutional repository such as WHO IRIS, the gains in terms of the amount of content deposited may not justify the human resources required to manage the institutional repository deposition process. For manuscripts arising from grant funding that are not included in publishers' own deposit workflows, authors and principal investigators are reminded to use the NIHMS or Europe PMC Plus systems to deposit to PubMed Central or Europe PMC respectively, in accordance with the requirements of the relevant funding bodies.
7. IARC's Open Access Policy, while separate from that of WHO, was modeled on and is broadly in line with WHO's policy. WHO recently expanded its OA policy beyond external journal articles and book chapters authored by WHO staff or resulting from WHO-funded research to cover all WHO publications. The Creative Commons Attribution, Non-Commercial, Share-Alike, Intergovernmental 3.0 license (CC BY-NC-SA IGO 3.0) has begun to be applied to WHO publications starting 11 November 2016. It will continue to be applied retroactively on a case-by-case basis to publications processed prior to this date. This license allows free non-commercial reuse of published material, thereby obviating the need for non-commercial users to request permission for reuse.
8. In light of WHO's expansion of OA materials, IARC will also revisit its policy and continue its efforts to ensure the broadest possible barrier-free access to the Agency's research.