Statement of support for open research

November 2020 – October 2023

Edge Hill University

Edge Hill University statement of support for open research

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Summary – Open Research

Open research (or open science/scholarship) encapsulates a number of elements, with open access, open data, open source, and open standards at the centre. These support the unfettered dissemination of the new knowledge generated by research and enable reproducible research by providing full access to the major components of research. Open research enables others to collaborate, validate and contribute, where research outputs, data, protocols, lab notes and other research processes are freely available, under terms that enable reuse, redistribution and reproduction of the research and its underlying data and methods.

Edge Hill promotes and supports open research, to improve discoverability and maximise access to knowledge in accordance with our mission to generate pure and applied research of international significance, that will provide a firm foundation for our graduates, and other stakeholders in a rapidly changing world.

Open research also commits us to sharing knowledge with our research users and collaborators in a direct way that helps to improve well-being. Further, by sharing knowledge with other researchers openly, we contribute to the faster generation of new knowledge based on new knowledge that demonstrates significance and rigour and is based on robust evidence.

This statement outlines how Edge Hill supports open research and what how we expect researchers to adhere to our commitments.

How we support open research

To make open research a reality, the University is committed to supporting our researchers to make their research freely accessible, subject to adhering to commitments to confidentiality. We rely on our researchers to uphold principles of scholarly rigour so that open materials are of the highest research quality and, where appropriate, will aid reproducibility.

We recognise that the nature of research outputs, and their ownership, varies considerably both by discipline and by the research context. As such, the University is committed to supporting all authors (academics, researchers, staff and students) with freedom to choose where to publish. At the same time, restrictions may apply (e.g. with respect to commercial interests and publisher requirements, third party rights holders, GDPR, patient confidentiality, confidential social data etc.) and these must be respected. Researchers are encouraged to seek guidance from the University's Research Office when determining how to address these restrictions, which may mean that outputs or data should remain closed or on limited access.

The University's foundational OR policy is the Policy on Open Access [1]which establishes our expectation that anything that can be shared via open access should

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[1] https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/oa/?tab=open-access

be shared. We recognise that many staff and students go beyond the requirements set out in the policy. To increase a growing uptake of open research within our University community, we are committed to providing resources to make open research simple, effective and appropriate.

1. Support for researchers

We support researchers through:

- Establishing a policy framework to support and promote open research
- Providing services (particularly the Library and Learning Services Research Support Team and the Research Office) and systems (particularly the institutional repositories Pure and Figshare) to enable researchers to practise open research
- Providing funds for open access where a robust case is made
- Providing support, advice and guidance for individual academics and research students to help them to understand their commitments and the resources available to them in the context of their discipline
- Ensuring that PhD theses are deposited on Pure and linked to the British Library's EThOS service (unless an exception is approved)
- Ensuring sustainability of curated open materials and their continued open accessibility over the medium-term.
- Engaging with government and sector organisations to benchmark our policies and resources to ensure compliance with our obligations, while promoting the needs of the University and broader society, and providing value-for-money.

To ensure that open research is a valid option for all researchers, we will review use of gold open access uptake through our agreements with publishers to identify whether any groups are under-represented in their use of these resources.

2. Our expectations of researchers

To take their part in supporting the University's commitment to open research, we expect our researchers to:

- Comply with the relevant policies, particularly the Research Data Management Policy and the Open Access Policy
- Where possible, ensure all research outputs are open access, this can be done by:
    - o depositing pre-prints in the University's repository (Pure)
    - o using 'gold' open access journals and maximising the agreements the University has with publishers
    - o depositing practice-as-research (PaR) outputs – the University has invested in Figshare to facilitate this
- Where appropriate and possible, make openly available the underlying data relating to these publications, via Figshare or subject repositories
- Disseminate other research outputs such as software, code, exhibitions through Figshare or other repositories where possible

- Share protocols openly
- Design in open research terms when developing projects
- Promote research through other media including blogging, publications aimed at practitioners and/or the general public, online editions, releasing teaching materials.

At all times, researchers are expected to act in accordance with the expectations of those funding the research, and with the minimum thresholds set by regulatory bodies.

Endmatter

Title	Statement of support for open research
Policy Owner	Director of Research Office
Approved by	University Research and Innovation Committee
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