Open Access Policy of the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und –prüfung (BAM)

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Preamble

In research, Open Access stands for the principle of unrestricted and free access to scientific information on the Internet. As a signatory to the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"[1] the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und – prüfung (BAM) supports this principle. It reflects the basic idea of good scientific practice[2], which foresees that generally all research results should be made part of the scientific discourse.

Open Access publications achieve a high degree of accessibility and availability. They are read more frequently than publications with access restrictions, and as a result scientists and their contributions are more visible. Open Access helps to accelerate scientific innovation processes and maximise the benefits of publicly funded research. The WR (German Science and Humanities Council) has published recommendations on the transformation of scientific publishing to Open Access[3] and Germany's federal and state governments have also drawn up joint guidelines on the topic[4].

BAM places particular importance on the sustainable dissemination, availability and visibility of the results generated as part of its research activities. In line with the "Appeal for the Use of Open Licences in Science"[5] of the DFG (German Research Foundation), these goals are successfully reached particularly when access is established via standardised free licences.

BAM researchers publish their research results in various publication media, all of which are generally eligible for Open Access. Particularly important in this respect are journal articles and contributions to conference proceedings.

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[1] "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities"
  https://openaccess.mpg.de/Berliner-Erklaerung
[2] "Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice" (DFG Code of Conduct 2019)
  https://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/principles_dfg_funding/good_scientific_practice/index.html
[3] "Recommendations on the Transformation of Academic Publishing: Towards Open Access" (WR Drs. 9477-22)
  https://doi.org/10.57674/fyrc-vb61
[4] "Open Access in Germany - Common guidelines from the federal and state governments" (available only in German language)
  https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/de/bmbf/1/772960_Open_Access_in_Deutschland
[5] "Appeal for the Use of Open Licences in Science" (DFG, available only in German language)
  https://www.dfg.de/de/aktuelles/neuigkeiten-themen/info-wissenschaft/info-wissenschaft-14-68/index.html

Guidelines

The Board of Directors of BAM strongly recommends that the staff of the institution publish their research results in Open Access. The goal is to publish all eligible BAM publications with an Open Access rate of 100% by 2030. The following guidelines have been adopted:

Responsibilities of the employees

The employees of BAM

i. publish their publications directly in primary Open Access with open licences wherever possible.

ii. exercise their right to self-archive copies of their closed access publications wherever possible and make them available in parallel or with a time lag via an open repository. BAM-Publica[6], the publication server of BAM, can be used for this purpose.

iii. preferably transfer only non-exclusive rights of use when negotiating publishing agreements. If this is not possible, they try to reserve the right to self-archive the publication on an open repository.

iv. preferably have a persistent identifier for author identification (e. g. an ORCID iD) to enable reliable and unambiguous linking between themselves and their publications.

v. ensure that they do not allocate their Open Access publications to a predatory publisher.

vi. consider requirements and obligations, particularly those resulting from legal specifications, but also from contracts with third parties, and obtain approvals and ethics votes where necessary.

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[6] BAM-Publica – Publication Server of the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM)
http://publica.bam.de

Responsibilities of the institution

BAM

i.	supports its staff by providing them with information on Open Access and by helping them to clarify any questions they may have in this regard. To this end, the BAM Library has set up the section Publication Management as a point of contact.
ii.	operates the publication server BAM-Publica, on which staff can make their publications available in primary Open Access. This applies, amongst others, to dissertations and research reports.
iii.	supports its staff in identifying publications whose free availability is permissible according to the right to self-archive and provides them in Open Access via BAM-Publica.
iv.	makes its self-published releases available under open licences.
v.	actively promotes the transformation process from journal subscriptions to PAR ("Publish and Read") contracts as an Open Access funding model. A prominent example is the participation in the Project DEAL of the Alliance of German Science Organizations.
vi.	supports the unrestricted access to research data and software. The handling of research data is regulated by the "BAM Data Policy: Guidelines for Handling Research Data at the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und –prüfung (BAM)". The handling of research software is described in the "Self-conception of BAM on the handling of internally developed software".