

(Provisional Translation)

This document is a provisional translation. The official document is the Japanese version.

April 1, 2017

Revised on April 1, 2022

Revised on April 1, 2025

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management

Rapid development in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in recent years has made research results (e.g., papers and generated research data) easier to share and use mutually. This has led to the rapid spread of the concept of Open Science globally, which is a new method to advance research. In Japan, Open Science has been promoted in line with global trends. The 6th Science and Technology Innovation Basic Plan¹ states that it aims to enhance the presence of Japan by generating high-value research results through digitalizing our society as a whole and promoting Digital Transformation of research itself in accordance with the global trends of Open Science; it also mentions the contributions to Open Science from a global perspective. The Plan suggests how to manage and utilize publicly funded research data, and the Cabinet Office presented "the Basic Idea of Management and Utilization of Publicly Funded Research Data."²

Additionally, based on the G7 Hiroshima Summit and the G7 Sendai Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting in May 2023, Integrated Innovation Strategy 2023³

¹ The Cabinet Decision was made on March 26, 2021.

² The Cabinet Office Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council Decision was made on April 27, 2021.

³ The Cabinet Decision was made on June 9, 2023.

stipulates that "We will formulate a national policy to promote immediate open access⁴ to publicly funded scholarly publications and scientific data." In response, executive members of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation compiled "Basic Concepts for Promoting Open Access to Publicly Funded scholarly publications and scientific data"⁵.

JST developed "JST Policy on Open Access" in 2013 and "JST Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management" in 2017 to promote Open Science to research results stemming from research projects funded by JST (hereinafter referred to as "research projects"). In 2025, JST revised "Policy on Open Access to Research Publications and Research Data Management" to reflect both the domestic and international situation and for the further promotion of Open Science.

Moreover, JST will cooperate with research institutions whose research projects are funded by JST, and other stakeholders, to implement this policy. This policy also addresses the challenges of developing infrastructure of scientific and technical information required to advance Open Science, and promoting the communication between the public and researchers.

Described below are specific guidelines for handling research results.

I. Open Access to Research Publications

Open Access should be applied to all research publications in principle. In particular, peer-reviewed research articles (including review papers, and conference papers that are accepted for publication in a conference proceeding) should be made openly available within 12 months of publication.

Furthermore, peer-reviewed scholarly publications (those which are published in electronic journals, including the Author Accepted Manuscript) arising from research

⁴ "Open Access" means to publish academic outputs in a way that allows access to everyone and free of charge via the internet without any restrictions.

⁵ The Cabinet Office Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council Decision was made on October 30, 2023.

projects⁶ designated under the relevant government policy or the related information must be published in information infrastructures such as institutional repositories immediately after publication in academic journals.⁷

In achieving Open Access, the Author Accepted Manuscript and other relevant versions should be made openly available by depositing them in an institutional repository or other relevant mechanisms. Publishing research publications by researchers participating in JST- funded projects (hereinafter referred to as “researchers”) in academic journals committed to Open Access is allowable but is not necessarily encouraged.

In achieving Open Access, it is preferable to specify the terms of the copyright and the usage rules clearly when the reuse of the research results is allowed, in line with journal policies and the researcher’s intention.

Note that details of Open Access to research publications are specified in the Implementation Guidelines separately.

II. Handling Research Data

(Development of Data Management Plan⁸)

The researcher, who is responsible for a research activity plan of a research project (Principal Investigator, hereinafter referred to as “PI”), shall develop a Data Management Plan (hereinafter referred to as “DMP”) defining how to manage research data and is required to submit the DMP upon request from JST.

⁶ Research projects accepted in the Call for Proposals initiated in 2025: Strategic Basic Research Programs (except the Advanced Technologies for Carbon-Neutral (ALCA-Next), Cutting-edge Research and Development on Information & Communication Sciences (CRONOS)), and the Fusion Oriented REsearch for disruptive Science and Technology.

⁷ Regarding the publication of peer-reviewed scholarly publications or scientific data, registering the identifier is sufficient for fulfilling the requirement.

⁸ A plan to define how to handle research data in the course of the research project, in particular, refers to the descriptions of policies and plans for the project on preservation, management, and publication/non-publication of research data with its restriction.

(Preservation, Management, and Access to Research Data)

The PI shall preserve and manage research data appropriately based on the DMP.

Among research data, research data underlying research publications (research data that are required to be published from the viewpoint of ensuring transparency and reproducibility in the writing guidelines and publication regulations of electronic journals in which the scholarly publication is published) should be made openly available in principle.

Furthermore, scientific data (research data underlying scholarly publications arising from research projects⁶ designated under the relevant government policy) or the related information must be published in information infrastructures such as institutional repositories immediately after publication in academic journals.⁷

Research data other than those underlying research publications should also be made openly available. When publishing research data, measures to avoid disadvantaging researchers, such as setting embargo periods, may be necessary depending on certain circumstances. In addition, setting and clarifying the rules for secondary use to facilitate the reuse of research data are desirable.

However, the data that are recognized to require special considerations for publication (e.g., the data related to confidentiality, trade secret, national interest, and national security; the data intended to be collected for the use of commercialization and industrialization; the data possessed by private enterprises; the data that should be restricted under joint research agreements and similar entities; the data that should be protected in terms of privacy protection; and the data that should be protected in terms of proprietary interest) may be exempted.

(Creation of Metadata on Research Data)

The PI shall create the metadata, according to the rules set by JST, on Research Data Subject to Management listed in the DMP.

Note that the details of research projects in scope, DMP, and handling of research data are specified separately.