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National goals and guidelines for open access to research articles

Openness about the results of research is a core academic value. Open access enhances the development and application of knowledge as users in the wider research community, the private sector and the general public share in the results of research. Results of publicly funded research should therefore be publicly available.

Greater openness in research is also important with regard to the ongoing work in improving the way research is evaluated, cf. the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). This declaration includes a set of best practice recommendations for how to improve ways in which research output is evaluated. It strongly argues for the removal of the journal impact factor as the basis upon which decisions on funding, hiring and promotion are based. Instead, evaluation of the individual research results should be used.

Academic publishing is international, and any formulation of national goals for open access in Norway must be in line with developments in other countries and in the EU in particular. The Council of the European Union agreed in May 2016 that immediate open access to scientific publications should be the default by 2020.¹

The goal of the government is to make all publicly funded Norwegian research articles openly available by 2024. Norway shall be a driving force for all publicly financed research articles to be made openly available at the time of publishing. Research institutions, research funders and the wider research community must all play a part in order to reach this goal of full open access. The research community in particular is expected to play a vital role in promoting open access through their national and international networks, and to convert important journals within their subject areas from closed subscription based journals to open access titles.

¹ 'Council conclusions on the transition towards an Open Science system', Council of the European Union, 27 May 2016, Doc. 9526/16

