

Joint Press Release: Centre for Research Communications, Wellcome Trust, and RCUK

SHERPA/FACT – BETA Release Now Available

To coincide with the RCUK's new OA policy and Wellcome Trust policy changes, the Centre for Research Communications (CRC) is pleased to announce the availability of [SHERPA Funders' & Authors' Compliance Tool \(SHERPA/FACT\) Beta](#). The beta release of SHERPA/FACT interprets data from SHERPA/RoMEO, JULIET and other sources to provide clear guidance to RCUK and Wellcome Trust funded authors on compliance with their Open Access (OA) policies and advises on the options available.

SHERPA/FACT Beta:

- Asks authors to select which of the RCUK Councils or Wellcome Trust has funded their work.
- Asks authors to enter the journal name or ISSN of the journal they wish to use.
- Cross-references the information held in RoMEO and in JULIET on both Funders' and Publishers' policies.
- Gives the author clear information as to whether that journal offers publication or archiving rights compliant with their funders' policy.
- Notes the level of OA fee payable, if any, and if available from the publisher site.
- Gives guidance to the author as to what action to take next to comply with their funders' policy, customising guidance according to the stage of the author's publication - accepted, published, etc.

For more information and to use SHERPA/FACT beta, please visit www.sherpa.ac.uk/fact

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a beta version and has been tested for accuracy against existing data held by SHERPA/RoMEO, JULIET and other third party sources. However, information in this area is dynamic and many publishers are currently updating, changing and clarifying their policies in response to the launch of the RCUK and Wellcome Trust policies.

As updated policy information becomes available from publishers, SHERPA/FACT will be updated accordingly. We are aware of a number of changes due to be released soon – indeed, FACT may even prompt further clarifications to be made. FACT beta will, over the coming weeks, undergo continuous improvements to the information it holds.

Please use SHERPA/FACT beta for evaluation purposes and report any information that needs updating and any other comments to fact@sherpa.ac.uk.

Bill Hubbard, Director of the CRC, said: "For more Open Access research from the RCUK and Wellcome Trust to be made available to everyone, researchers need clear guidance about whether their chosen journal complies with their funder's policy. SHERPA/FACT will give them a clear answer, help raise an institution's rate of compliance and ultimately help more research to be made available to us all."

Robert Kiley, Head of Digital Services at the Wellcome Trust, said: "Providing clear guidance to our researchers will help to ensure they can comply with the Trust's Open Access mandate."

Mark Thorley, chair of Research Councils UK Research Outputs Network, said: "The launch of this beta version of SHERPA FACT is part of our strategy of providing a range of resources to support implementation of the new RCUK Policy on Open Access".

Further information

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About Centre for Research Communications

The Centre for Research Communications (CRC) was formed in April 2009, to help to support and inform the changes and new ideas in the way that research is communicated around the world. The CRC houses a portfolio of open access projects and initiatives currently undertaken by the University of Nottingham.

Additionally, the Centre for Research Communications, maintains the related SHERPA Services: RoMEO, JULIET and OpenDOAR. Website: www.crc.nottingham.ac.uk

About SHERPA/RoMEO

SHERPA/RoMEO is an easy-to-use independent online service that provides impartial and accurate guidance on permissions and conditions of rights given to authors by journal publishers. It started as a service in 2004 and has grown to become the world's largest database of self archiving permissions and conditions of rights given to authors by journal publishers.

SHERPA/RoMEO is currently funded by JISC (past funders have included the Wellcome Trust and RLUK) and has collaborative relationships with many international partners, who contribute time and effort to developing and maintaining the service. Journal information is kindly provided by the British Library's Zetoc service hosted by MIMAS, the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) hosted by Lund University Libraries, and the Entrez journal list hosted by the NCBI. Website: www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo

About RCUK

Research Councils UK (RCUK) is the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils who annually invest around £3 billion in research. RCUK support excellent research, as judged by peer review that has an impact on the growth, prosperity and wellbeing of the UK. To maintain the UK's global research position RCUK offer a diverse range of funding opportunities, foster international collaborations and provide access to the best facilities and infrastructure around the world. RCUK also support the training and career development of researchers and work with them to inspire young people and engage the wider public with research. To maximise the impact of research on economic growth and societal wellbeing RCUK work in partnership with other research funders including the Technology Strategy Board, the UK Higher Education funding bodies, business, government, and charitable organisations. Website: www.rcuk.ac.uk

About the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests. Website: www.wellcome.ac.uk