

# Dalhousie Researcher Response to the Tri-Agency Policy on Open Access Publications

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## INTRODUCTION

Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications

- Requires all research funded by the Tri-Agencies (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC) to be shared via Open Access (OA) within 12 months of publication.
- Effective May 2015 for all agencies.

This research study explores Dalhousie researchers'

- Understanding of and compliance with the *Tri-Agency Policy on Open Access Publications*.
- Understanding of OA - perceptions of barriers and challenges associated with Open Access.

## METHOD

- Online six-question questionnaire.
- Target population of 258 Dalhousie University Tri-Agency grant recipients who received their grant since May, 2015.
- The online questionnaire was open from March 2 through to March 10, 2017.
- Of the 258 researchers in our target population, 53 self-selected to comprise our sample.
- Multiple choice questions:
  - Opinion generated the mean.
- Open ended questions:
  - Post coding/indexing was used to find key words to quantify the natural language responses which uncovered main themes shared in the responses.

## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Over 3/4 respondents:

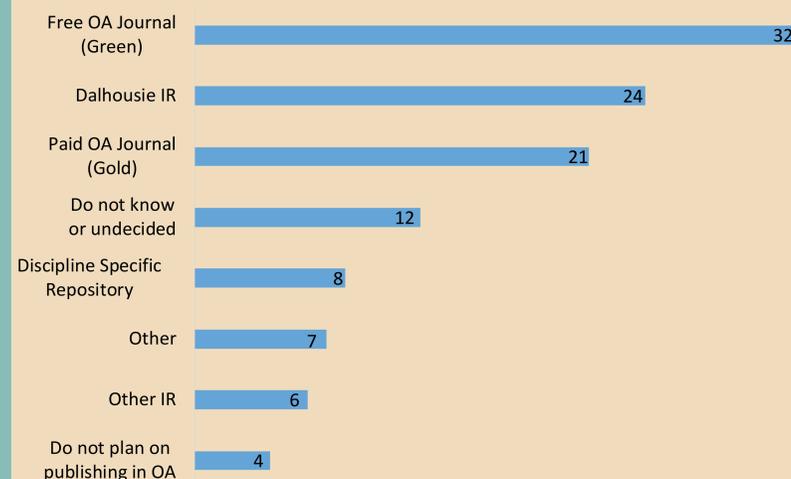
- Agree or strongly agree that the results of publicly funded research should be made available as open access.
- Are familiar with the *Tri-Agency Policy on Open Access Publications*

All respondents were aware of open access publishing options.

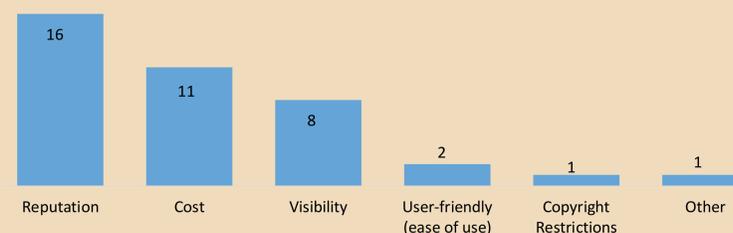
12/53 respondents had not yet decided how to fulfill the open access policy.

4/53 are refusing to publish in open access despite the mandate.

Which open access option do you plan on using to fulfil the Tri-Agency mandate? (n=53)



What is the most important factor that contributed to you making this choice of publishing destination? (n=39)



## CONCLUSIONS

- Barriers to OA submission such as cost, reputation and copyright were identified.
- Free OA journals were the number one publication choice.
- Researchers were concerned with reputation of green OA which causes them to lean towards publishing in journals rather than IRs.

Recommendations:

- Universities or the Tri-Agency should cover the costs of OA deposits outside of the research grant.
- Faculties need to change their process for promotion and tenure to encourage researchers to deposit in OA.
- The Tri-Council Agencies need to define the consequences of non-compliance with their OA policy.
- Researchers need to be made aware that depositing a copy of their research on their personal website does not meet the OA requirement.

Future Research:

- Replicate the research project with Tri-Agency researchers at institutions across Canada.
- Find out what the researcher's "Copyright" concerns are.

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