



Royal College of Art

Royal College of Art statement on Open Access

Open Access to research ensures the freedom to digitally access, read, download, copy, distribute, print, search and link to, or use for any other lawful purpose research materials without financial, legal or technical barriers. The only restrictions to these rights should be to give authors and creators control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.

Statement of principle

The Royal College of Art (RCA) acknowledges that scholarly research produced within the College is a public good and that the fruits of research activity should be publicly available free of charge or other restriction wherever possible. Access to research is potentially beneficial to all elements of society including the public, industry and commerce, the global research community and the academic institutions in which they practice. Furthermore, the College understands that art and design research and practice is not always carried out within institutions with budgets to cover the costs of access to research locked behind paywalls. As a result, the RCA recognises the benefits that Open Access initiatives can offer to the wider artistic and design community, particularly those that practice outside of large publicly and privately funded institutions.

College commitments

The College commits to advocating for the principles of open research and the sharing of scholarly research for public good.

The College commits to making its research open through the maintenance, promotion and development of the RCA Research Repository.

The College commits to provide support and training around the principles and practice of Open Access to its research community.

The College commits to uphold the freedom of its academic staff to publish, showcase and curate their work in the venue and manner that they feel to be most appropriate for their research. This statement does not seek to limit that freedom in any way.

Benefits of Open Access

To researchers - Open Access increases the potential audience for their works; offers researchers the opportunity to curate a digital, shareable portfolio; widens the access that they have to research materials created by others; and can facilitate and encourage meaningful collaboration.

To the global public - Open Access ensures that they have access to world leading research which is often funded by public money. In this way Open Access helps to democratise research and knowledge by improving access and removing barriers to them.

To industry - Open Access gives industry and businesses access to research that could spark innovation and improve services.

To the academy - Open Access helps research institutions to showcase the research they produce whilst also increasing the size of the audience for their outputs.

Routes to Open Access

There are a number of routes to achieve Open Access:

Practice research, exhibitions, shows, performances, teaching materials etc.

For practice research, exhibitions, shows, performances, teaching materials and other artistic works that are not formally published and distributed through a commercial, society or other publishing company, researchers are encouraged to make these outputs available Open Access by depositing a digital copy or representation of the work as soon as possible after completion in the RCA Research Repository.

Journal Articles, conference proceedings, books and book chapters

For research journal articles, conference proceedings, books and book chapters formally published through a commercial, society or other publishing company the RCA preference is for green Open Access. Green Open Access involves authors depositing the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM, the final author manuscript as accepted for publication, incorporating any peer review) of their paper, chapter or book in an institutional repository or an Open Access subject repository. RCA researchers are encouraged to deposit in the RCA Research Repository for this purpose. Where it is legally allowed to do so the RCA will make publications available on an Open Access basis through the RCA Research Repository, whilst respecting publisher embargo periods where they apply.

The College will support gold Open Access where this is required by funder policies and where the funds are in place to do so. Gold Open Access involves a publisher making a work available Open Access through the publisher's platform at the point of publication, often requiring payment of an Article Processing Charge (APC) from the author to do so. The RCA supports the payment of APCs through the maintenance of the RCUK block grant for RCUK funded authors and through other internal funds where available. Researchers publishing

their work through the gold Open Access route should still deposit the Version of Record (VoR, the final published version of their work) in the RCA Research Repository.

Guidelines

In adhering to the following guidelines RCA researchers will demonstrate good practice in relation to making their research openly available, comply with Research England's policy for Open Access in the next REF, and meet UKRI funding council requirements¹:

- RCA academics should deposit the final version of research outputs in the College repository as soon as possible.
- RCA researchers should deposit the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) of research publications in the College repository within 3 months of the date of acceptance.
- When depositing works in the RCA Research Repository, depositors are encouraged to attach one of the Creative Commons suite of licenses, or other similar license, in order to define access and re-use rights granted to others.
- Where Open Access publication in the RCA Research Repository is not possible RCA academics should deposit metadata describing their research output in the repository as a minimum.
- Where publications are based upon research data, as per the Royal College of Art Research Data Management policy this research data should also be published openly in the RCA Research Repository where possible. The repository records for research data and associated publications should be linked where possible.
- The RCA Research Repository will also be the venue for sharing PhD theses produced at the College after 2010. PhD and Mphil students should supply the library with a digital copy of their thesis within one month of completing their final exam for deposit in the RCA Research Repository. This will be made available Open Access where possible, with a maximum embargo period of 12 months in cases where the author is seeking publication or commercial exploitation of the material.
- Students and support staff are also invited to deposit research outputs and peer-reviewed publications in the RCA Research Repository.

For enquiries or support around Open Access at the RCA please contact Tom Cridford, Scholarly Communications Librarian thomas.cridford@rca.ac.uk, or Christie Walker, Head of Research Development christie.walker@rca.ac.uk.

¹ Where researchers are externally funded, the policies of that funding body take precedence over this document.