

DECLARATION ON OPEN SCIENCE AT SCIENCES PO

June 2021

The intention of the declaration on Open Science¹ at Sciences Po is to describe the University's vision, commitments and actions for making the results of research conducted at the University as widely accessible as possible. It harmonises with the recommendations and best practices for research ethics at Sciences Po as well as being in keeping with an ambitious public policy in this area.

Vision

The University supports research systems and tools that promote collaboration, knowledge dissemination and accessibility, and the re-use of research outputs based on the principle of 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary', within an appropriate legal and ethical framework. This principle takes into account confidentiality requirements related to data protection and privacy law, data security (fundamental state interests and sovereignty of research data), respect for academic freedom, and scientific integrity.

Commitments

Sciences Po joined the open access movement in 2008 with the creation of an open access institutional repository and is committed to providing and maintaining infrastructures that respect the FAIR² principles for depositing publications and data.

The second major focus of the University's commitment is to train doctoral students and raise awareness among the academic community and support staff on integrating open research practices.

Finally, by implementing Open Science governance, Sciences Po aims to ensure coherence between information provision, attention to needs, the coordination of stakeholders, discussion with the whole community, and support for research projects on a subject that is evolving rapidly at both the national and international levels.

¹ Open Science refers here to the unrestricted dissemination of research publications and data.

² The FAIR principles define how data should be managed: Findable (easy to find); Accessible (the conditions of access are clearly defined); Interoperable (can be integrated or interact with other systems or data); Reusable (well-documented to ensure they can be understood and the conditions for potential reuse are met).

Action

Publications

The University requires researchers to list all articles, book chapters, books, working papers and reports in the dedicated institutional repository as soon as possible after publication and to attach the digital version in line with the contractual framework. Furthermore, with due regard for copyright and the Digital Republic Law, free access to the digital version should always be favoured.

Sciences Po is also a signatory to the Jussieu Call, which promotes bibliodiversity³ and the freedom for researchers to choose their publisher. In this context, when the publication of an article is subject to publication fees,⁴ researchers are urged to be vigilant about so-called 'hybrid' journals.⁵ On this point, and more generally, they are encouraged to call on our research support services for guidance on the terms of publishing contracts, copyright retention and the associated licensing. Each year, doctoral students are trained in academic publishing practices and made aware of the legal and technical aspects involved.

Finally, to promote the visibility of their research and in line with the national plan for open science, Sciences Po encourages the widest possible adoption by researchers of the international digital identifier ORCID, and its alignment with other identifiers, such as idRef and idHAL.

Data

Sciences Po encourages researchers to open their data in a graduated manner according to disciplinary practices of data collection and production. The University is keen to allow researchers to discuss the benefits of opening their data and the potential for its re-use. The factors and arguments against opening data need to be taken into account and re-evaluated as the systems evolve.

To further open up research outputs, our research support staff offer a range of services and resources: advice, procedures and tools for legal and ethical compliance, and support on integrating FAIR practices related to documenting and depositing data and on drafting Data Management Plans (DMPs). The joint objective of our support staff is to develop a one-stop-shop service and to offer user guides. Particular attention is paid to the DMP and the register of personal data processing at Sciences Po, which will evolve regularly both in terms of content

³ Bibliodiversity is cultural diversity applied to the writing and publishing world. Echoing the concept of biodiversity, 'bibliodiversity' refers to the need for a variety of publications to be available to readers. (Source: Wikipedia)

⁴ These fees are also called Article Processing Charges (APC)

⁵ A hybrid journal is distributed by paid subscription but also invites authors to pay a publication fee to have their article published in open access.

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and of their integration into the research management tools made available at the national and international levels.

All members of the academic community can benefit at any time from data management training, as well as being able to receive guidance on data management for a specific project. Doctoral students receive data management training as part of the doctoral programme.

Documentation strategy

Sciences Po, through its library, has taken a strong stance in the last few years in favour of open access and has been working to negotiate open access resources and integrate them into the collections, content management tools, the discovery engine, and associated workflows. The library also provides financial support to stakeholders promoting bibliodiversity⁶ and open science in Europe.

Governance

The Scientific Resources and Information Division and the Research Division have created the Data Processing & Open Science Committee to steer and monitor, together with researchers and the other divisions and services concerned—the Centre for Socio-Political Data, the Legal Division, the Information Systems Division (ISD), the Data Protection Officer, and the Secretary General's Office—the commitments and actions described in this declaration and their coordination with the research centres.

The committee is responsible for disseminating the declaration, and works with the existing working groups—steering committees and user committees—dedicated to open science practices and systems at Sciences Po. Several of its members contribute to the open science ecosystem by participating in various national and international consultation bodies.⁷

The committee implements internal monitoring indicators including the French open science monitor within the University⁸ and updates the open science declaration as necessary.

⁶ See above.

⁷ Including: SupDPO (network of DPOs in higher education and research), COAR (Confederation of Open Access Repositories), CESSDA (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives), RDA (Research Data Alliance), Couperin Consortium.

⁸ National initiative rolled out to universities. See <https://ministeresuprecherche.github.io/bsol/>