



Ensure your paper writing complies with new RCUK policy

MIRC Update

Following the publication of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Policy on Open Access last year, discussion rightly concentrated on the impact it had on disseminating academic research and less was said about how it might affect the actual content.

The policy, which is intended to make RCUK research available to a wider audience for free and support openness and transparency in research, makes two specific and lesser known stipulations for those writing journal articles and conference papers:

- acknowledge underlying research material and
- to detail funding sources.

Any member of staff who has recently received RCUK funding, or is currently in the process of submitting a bid, will have to comply with these requirements. They are also viewed as “good practice” when writing academic publications through more traditional channels, and are likely to become more widespread as other funding bodies also embrace Open Access.

Acknowledging underlying research material

RCUK requires all peer-reviewed research and review articles published via Open Access to include a statement on how readers can access the underlying research materials, such as data, samples or models.

However, the policy does not require that the data must be made open. If there are considered to be compelling reasons to protect access to the data, for example commercial confidentiality or legitimate sensitivities around data derived from potentially identifiable human participants, these should be included in the statement.

As the policy does not dictate a standard format for the statement, authors are able to use their own discretion. Example statements you could use depending on your circumstance can be found at: <https://intranet.cranfield.ac.uk/rltp/rdm/Pages/Data-access-statements.aspx>.

Acknowledging funding sources

RCUK also requires funding information to be included within the acknowledgement section of a paper. Until recently there was no standard wording or guidance on the form the acknowledgement should take. However, the Research Information Network has now published the following recommended format:

“This work was supported by the Medical Research Council [grant number xxx]”.

More information

For further advice about writing and publishing your research in compliance with funder policy, you can contact:

John Harrington
Head of Learning and Research Support
Library and Information Services
Tel: ext. 4477
Email: j.harrington@cranfield.ac.uk.

You can also find out more about publishing your research via Open Access, read the full RCUK policy, and request an APC payment on the University intranet under Research, Learning and Teaching > Making your research Open Access, or go directly to intranet.cranfield.ac.uk/rltp/openaccess/Pages/default.aspx.

Contacting us

Management Information and Resource Centre (MIRC)

-  +44 (0) 1234 754440
-  mirc@cranfield.ac.uk
-  som.cranfield.ac.uk/som/mirc