Out of Mandate Recommendations

1. Fair Gold Open Access

In consultation with the Belgian federated entities and research organisations, BELSPO recognises the full liberty for researchers to publish in the venue of their choice. If Gold Open Access journals provide genuine added value and proportionate pricing they should be taken into consideration. On top of commercial APC based journals under the conditions mentioned in the mandate, BELSPO considers two Gold Road business models to be recommended for OA : Publishing in free of charge so called Diamond Open Access Journals run by public organisations; Freemium journals, the on line version of which is provided free of charge, but where the user may be charged for advanced features, functionality, or virtual goods.

2. Choice of Infrastructure

The most economical and practical solution for achieving OA to BELSPO research is direct incremental import by all researchers into a central repository, i.e. Orfeo. Second best is the creation of fully compatible OA repositories at the institutional level from where data can be harvested by Orfeo. As a third choice BELSPO strongly recommends that federal science policy organisations make their existing or planned Integrated Library Systems (ILS) compatible with the OAI-PMH protocol and Dublin Core metadata. BELSPO project reports will be uploaded by the BELSPO central administration.

3. Import Procedure

Individual import by the researcher is encouraged as it benefits the immediate incremental update of the repository’s content. Moreover researcher control over the assigned metadata guarantees quality. The Orfeo interface, the institutional OA Contact Person and the BELSPO Orfeo Helpdesk will provide assistance with the deposit procedures.

If no institutional repository is available and incremental updating is not feasible, institutional batch imports to Orfeo will have to be considered and the researcher’s institution OA Contact Person will organise an update at least every 6 months. The Orfeo Helpdesk will assist if necessary. Training will be provided.

7. Internal Support

Every institution involved with Orfeo will name an Open Access contact person for internal project follow up and for communication with the BELSPO OA Project Administrator and the Orfeo Helpdesk.[[1]](#footnote-1) On top of this however, a resolute and rigorous devotion of the institutional hierarchy is instrumental to the successful implementation of the OA mandate. For instance, it is imperative that evaluation panels and scientific counsels refuse bibliographies provided by candidates or evaluated researchers and resort to bibliographies produced by the institutional OA Repository or Orfeo only, lest the mandate would lose all credibility. It is also paramount for research institutions' directors and accountants to enforce the mandate’s APC provisions, which cannot be monitored at BELSPO level.

1. See Annex 4, 1.5. Orfeo Governance [↑](#footnote-ref-1)