

OPEN ACCESS POLICY

PURPOSE

The Brock University Act provides that the objects and purposes of the University are the advancement of learning, the dissemination of knowledge and the betterment of its members and society. The purpose of this Policy is to advance these objectives by promoting and facilitating the open dissemination of research.

The open dissemination of research brings many benefits, both to the institution, and the communities Brock serves. Open dissemination accelerates discovery across the disciplines; increases the visibility and impact of Brock research; facilitates connections and collaborations between scholars; strengthens the rigour of published research by ensuring it is open to scrutiny by all; and reflects Brock's societal responsibility as an institution receiving public funding.

The Open Access Policy aligns with these goals by expressing an institutional commitment to make research widely accessible, while at the same time protecting the intellectual property rights of its researchers and acknowledging the principle of academic freedom. The policy also aligns with and supports the ability of Brock Scholars to comply with the *Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications*.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all academic journal articles published by Brock Scholars subsequent to the adoption of this Policy.

The Policy does not apply to books, book chapters, collections of essays, datasets, or other outputs that are not academic journal articles; however, deposit of these and other types of scholarly outputs is welcomed.

This Policy applies to Brock Scholars. Others at Brock not covered by this Policy are encouraged to make their research accessible through the avenues described below.

If any provision of this Policy is found to be inconsistent with the provisions of a collective agreement, the collective agreement will prevail, unless the Policy provision is required by law, in which case the Policy provision will prevail.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Brock University recognizes the importance of sharing the products of research and scholarship as widely as possible.
2. Brock University is committed to providing an Open Access Repository optimized for the online discoverability, preservation and dissemination of research; and to providing the appropriate supports, including publishing and author rights consultation services, to enable its full utilization.
3. Brock Scholars are expected to deposit an electronic copy of their academic journal articles in Brock's Open Access Repository ("Brock University Digital Repository") by the date of publication. If needed, articles may be embargoed within the repository upon deposit to meet time periods required by publishers.
4. Each Brock Scholar who deposits their academic journal articles in the Brock University Digital Repository grants the University the non-exclusive permission to archive and disseminate those articles through the Repository, provided that the articles are properly attributed to the authors, and that dissemination is for non-commercial purposes only.
5. Brock Scholars who choose not to deposit an academic journal article in the Brock University Digital Repository shall notify the University Library through the opt-out form [LINK] made available through the Brock University Library.

DEFINITIONS

- Open Access Repository - An online database of open access works that is optimized for online discovery and indexing.
- Open Access - Open Access refers to free, unrestricted online access to content.
- Brock Scholars - Brock Scholars refers to faculty, professional librarians, students, as well as staff with research responsibilities (post-doctoral fellows, laboratory scientists, etc.).

POLICY ADMINISTRATION & REVIEW

The University Librarian will report annually to the Vice-President, Research on the numbers of deposits to the Brock University Digital Repository and opt-outs received. The Vice-President, Research, in consultation with the University Librarian, will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its application, and making

recommendations to Senate Research and Scholarship Policy Committee regarding changes to the policy.

Policy owner:	Vice-President, Research
Approved by:	Senate - May 27, 2020
Effective date:	May 2020
Next review:	May 2023
Revision history:	New
Related documents:	Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)