



SUNY ESF Open Access Policy

Approved by ESF Academic Governance, 2020

{Drafted with guidance from the Berkman Klein Center “Good Practices for university open-access policies. https://cyber.harvard.edu/hoap/Good_practices_for_university_open-access_policies}

1. The faculty of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible. In keeping with this commitment, the Faculty adopts the following policy:
2. Each University Author grants to the University nonexclusive permission to make available their scholarly articles and to exercise the copyright in those articles.
3. The policy applies to works authored or co-authored while the person is a member of the faculty, a student or a staff member except for any works completed before the adoption of this policy and any articles for which the University Author entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy.
4. In legal terms, the permission granted by each Author is a nonexclusive, irrevocable, paid-up, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, in any medium, and to authorize others to do the same, for the purpose of open dissemination. It does not grant the University the right to sell the articles for a profit or constitute transfer of copyright.
5. Authors can request a waiver of the Open Access Policy for any article or work.
6. To assist the University in distributing the articles, each Author will provide an electronic copy of the final version of the article at no charge to the University Library department for Scholarly Communications in an appropriate format (pdf). Each Author may also deposit data related to the article. When appropriate, a University Author may instead notify University Libraries if the work will be freely available in another repository or as an open-access publication.
7. The faculty calls upon the Library System to make the scholarly article available to the public in an open-access repository and to develop and monitor a plan for a service or mechanism that would render compliance with the policy as convenient for the faculty as possible.

Definitions in Order of Appearance

- **Nonexclusive permission:** After granting nonexclusive permission, you still retain ownership and complete control of the copyright in your writings, subject only to this prior license. You can exercise your copyrights in any way you see fit, including transferring them to a publisher if you so desire.
- **Scholarly Articles:** Faculty’s scholarly articles are articles that describe the fruits of their research and that they give to the world for the sake of inquiry and knowledge without

expectation of payment. Such articles are typically presented in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and conference proceedings.

- **Irrevocable, paid-up, worldwide license:** The permissions granted may not be taken back; there are no fees associated with the permission granted; and the permissions apply worldwide.
- **Copyright:** Rights as defined by US Copyright Law (Title 17 of the United States Code).
- **Authorize others to the same:** This language transfers the nonexclusive right to the University to allow others to use the articles in specified ways and contexts.
- **Not sold for a profit:** The University could not generate a profit from exercising the rights granted but could recover costs for a service related to the articles, such as printed course packs.
- **Waive or opt-out:** To waive or opt-out means to decline to grant the University the license described in the policy.
- **Final version of the article:** an author's final revised version, also known as the accepted manuscript, of a scholarly article, generally post-peer review, but not necessarily the copyedited and typeset publisher's copy, unless such is allowed by the publisher.
- **Open Access Repository:** Any digital archive or platform designed to make articles freely available via the Internet with clearly defined legal restrictions on their use or circulation. The Digital Commons platform is the default repository for this policy at the time of writing.

ESF Digital Repositories

Moon Library maintains two digital repositories for the open access sharing of scholarly and historical resources produced at ESF. Digital Commons at ESF serves as the primary institutional repository and is host to Honors and Graduate theses and dissertations, digitized documents and pictures from the college archives and scholarly work from several departments at ESF. Digital Commons is an ideal platform for the open sharing of pdf documents, pictures and videos. It is currently enabled with dedicated spaces for all current ESF academic departments and could serve as the repository for openly shared scholarly work with minimal modification.

In addition to the Digital Commons at ESF, Moon Library also supports an instance of Harvard's Dataverse repository. Dataverse is a platform designed to support the sharing of research data and code; it supports tabular data formats and providing an easy means to cite back to research data. It also has more flexible usage options, allowing for data to be shared selectively when such control is required. The ESF Dataverse currently hosts data from several dissertations and has a dedicated space for the ESF Willow project data. While data is not required to be shared in the Open Access policy, it is encouraged. The Dataverse is presently capable of supporting the anticipated increase in submissions.