

Position statement on Open Access to heritage science research outputs

The National Heritage Science Forum brings together the major UK organisations that make a significant contribution to the heritage community.

Its vision is that the understanding and preservation of the UK's extraordinarily rich and varied material cultural heritage will be enhanced by the better use of science and technology, and the humanities sciences and arts will be developed and enhanced by this collaboration. Heritage science will be a robust, internationally recognised, well co-ordinated, vibrant and sustainable community that contributes to the big questions confronting humanity by understanding and addressing the present needs and future requirement of cultural heritage.

Its aims are:

1. To improve partnership within the sector and with others by increasing collaboration to help practice make better use of research, knowledge and innovation and to enhance resources, funding and skills, investment and profile.
2. To demonstrate the public benefit of heritage science and increase public engagement and support for it.

The NHSF supports Open Access to heritage science research publications and research data.

The Forum seeks to encourage the maximum distribution of research outputs, through Open Access, as a means of achieving its aims of improving partnership within the sector and with others, and helping practitioners to make better use of research.

Specifically, the benefits of Open Access to heritage science research include:

- Increasing the visibility of heritage science research
- Increasing the potential to bring together researchers and the users of research
- Building networks between scientists from different disciplines
- Maximising the impact of investment in heritage science research
- Ensuring the results of research can be used more fully for the benefit of society and the economy
- Building a richer research culture for heritage science

Our policy is that we will make a fund available to support Gold Open Access publishing by individuals who are employees or members of organisations that belong to NHSF. We will be piloting this from September 2016.

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