OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Open Science Policy of the Hochschule RheinMain

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ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with Art. 1 of the statutes of the Hochschule RheinMain regarding the announcement of its statutes dated June 4, 2013 (StAnz. of July 29, 2013, p. 929), the Open Science Policy of the Hochschule RheinMain is hereby announced.

Wiesbaden, June 2, 2023   Prof. Dr. Eva Waller

President

OPEN SCIENCE POLICY OF THE HOCHSCHULE RHEINMAIN

The Open Science Policy of the Hochschule RheinMain was adopted at a meeting of the President's Council on April 11, 2023, and was approved in the 205th session of the Senate of the Hochschule RheinMain on May 23, 2023.

PREAMBLE

The Hochschule RheinMain supports the principles of Open Science. Open Science refers to a group of various strategies and procedures that aim to make scientific knowledge openly available, accessible, and reusable for all. The aim of Open Science is to strengthen scientific cooperation and the exchange of information both for the benefit of science and society and to open up processes relating to the acquisition, evaluation, and dissemination of research knowledge to social actors outside the traditional scientific community. Open Science involves all academic disciplines and aspects of research practice, including basic and applied sciences, natural and social sciences and the humanities, and builds upon the following key pillars: open scientific knowledge, open scientific infrastructure, science communication, open engagement of social actors, and open dialog with other knowledge systems. (UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science 2021, p. 7, https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en)

The Open Science Policy builds on the "Guidelines of the Hochschule RheinMain for Ensuring Good Research Practice", the Principles for the Handling of Research Data at the Hochschule RheinMain, the HSRM research strategy, the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, and the Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Research Practice from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation). (https://www.dfg.de/en/basics-topics/basics-and-principles-of-funding/good-scientific-practice/code-of-conduct)

The Open Science Policy of the Hochschule RheinMain expressly acknowledges that Open Science is valued in different ways by various specialist disciplines at the university and in each case involves meeting a range of requirements. At the same time, the Hochschule RheinMain is of the view that awareness of the importance of Open Science needs to be strengthened and that Open Science should continue to be supported as an integral element of academic practice at the university. The Hochschule RheinMain will support and oversee this process by providing the necessary staffing and infrastructure measures. The Open Science Policy does not apply to commissioned research that is undertaken at the Hochschule RheinMain.

When implementing Open Science, the Hochschule RheinMain and its members respect all laws and regulations, such as those applying to data protection, foreign trade law, the protection of individuals and personal rights, intellectual property, and other property rights.

The opportunity to safeguard intellectual property remains in place. Ethical questions and any contractual obligations must always be considered.

1. RESPONSIBILITY

The Open Science Policy is aimed at the university's own teaching and research staff and at academics who are based temporarily or on a guest basis at the Hochschule RheinMain. In research partnerships, the Open Science Policy should be included in any cooperation agreements that are signed. In externally funded research, agreements with third parties on matters such as access and re-use rights, archiving and documentation take precedence over this Open Science Policy.

The Hochschule RheinMain and, if they are relevant, its service facilities and research-supporting offices, are responsible for:

1. All necessary measures to support the implementation of Open Science. In particular, this affects the provision of technical, organizational, and human resources for ensuring the long-term availability of findings relating to research and teaching. These include institutional Open Access, Open Educational Resources (OER), and research data repositories.

2. The integration of Open Science practices in recruitment, research, and evaluation criteria.

3. Provision of advisory services and recommendations for open licenses and copyrights.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN SCIENCE AT THE HOCHSCHULE RHEINMAIN

Open Access and Publications

Open Access refers to the unrestricted and free access to scientific information. The Hochschule RheinMain is a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge and aspires for all university publications to be freely accessible in line with the principles of Open Access. For this purpose, the university requests its academics to use its research repository PUR (Publikationen-Repositorium) to make their publications publicly accessible.

Research data

Research data refers to all data that is created and used in, or is a result of scientific research processes. The data can exist in various formats, types, and aggregation states. The Hochschule RheinMain sees the publication of research data as part of the research process.

The university calls upon its academics to prepare, back up, document, and store research data in accordance with professional standards (FAIR = Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). This process also involves documenting the methods and tools used. Alignment with the FAIR principles[1] is recommended.

Open Source software

The Hochschule RheinMain supports and recommends releasing software that has been developed at the university under an Open Source license and to use Open Source software – after undertaking due diligence – where possible when conducting research. The commercial exploitation of software developed at the university remains possible.

Open Educational Resources (OER)

In November 2019, the UNESCO General Conference adopted a recommendation on OER[2]. "The recommendation emphasizes the important contribution that OER can make in achieving the goals of UNESCO's Education 2030 agenda – with equal opportunity, high-quality education, and life-long learning. The recommendation advises placing publicly-funded education materials under an Open Source license and calls on member states to support OER."[3]

Using OER can play an important contribution in digital teaching at the Hochschule RheinMain. The Hochschule RheinMain informs its members appropriately on the potential to use, create, and publish OER.

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[1] https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/

[2] https://www.unesco.de/dokumente-und-hintergruende/dokumente/unesco/unesco-empfehlungen/

[3] https://www.unesco.de/bildung/open-educational-resources

Science Communication and Citizen Science[4]

As a university of applied sciences, dialog with various social actors is of central importance to the Hochschule RheinMain. This applies both to the communication of research findings and to collaboration within research processes. Facilitating the participation of citizens and different social actors in research processes supports the legitimacy of the sciences and the democratization of knowledge[5]. The Hochschule RheinMain supports this approach through appropriate public relations activities and encourages academics to expand research projects with citizen participation.

Open Methodology

In order to ensure the reproducibility of research findings, detailed documentation of the research question, method, and experiments conducted is necessary. The Hochschule RheinMain encourages its academics to document methods for the long term using good research practice (such as by using electronic laboratory notebooks).

3. ENTRY INTO FORCE

This regulation enters into force the day after publication.

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[4] https://ag-openscience.de/citizen-science/
[5] See also the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science:
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en