

# OPEN ACCESS IN BELGIUM

MY RIGHTS  
MY OBLIGATIONS



# DECREE OF THE WALLONIA-BRUSSELS FEDERATION

OF 28 MAY 2018

## DOES THIS CONCERN ME?

This decree is aimed at any researcher who is carrying out research activities in a scientific or educational institution and financed, in whole or in part, by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

An Open Access full text version of your journal articles has to be archived in an institutional repository.

The text of the decree stipulates that all scientific journal articles that are accepted for publication, and which are the result of research activities financed, in whole or in part, by the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, have to be archived in an institutional repository.

## WHEN DO I NEED TO ARCHIVE THEM?

Immediately after the article has been accepted by a publisher.

## DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO ARCHIVE AN OPEN ACCESS VERSION?

Yes. Should the publisher require it, the decree allows an Open Access version of articles to be archived with an embargo that may not exceed:

- ▶ 6 months for scientific, technical and human or veterinary medicine-related fields;
- ▶ 12 months for the humanities and social sciences.

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO ME?

- ▶ To increase visibility and highlight the research carried out in the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.
- ▶ To encourage the dissemination of research results, thus allowing everybody – no matter what their means – to access scientific documentation.

# AMENDMENT TO LEGAL PROVISIONS REGARDING COPYRIGHT

OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2018

## DOES THIS CONCERN ME?

This provision pertains to all scientific articles that are published in a journal and that are the result of research that is at least half-funded by public funds. This is the case for any research that is carried out or published in Belgium, in part or in whole.

## WHAT AM I ALLOWED TO DO?

You have the right to archive Open Access versions of your journal article, no matter what contract has been signed with the publisher, under the following conditions:

- ▶ the research on which the article is based must have been at least half-funded by public funds;
- ▶ a point of attachment must be located in Belgium (author, publisher, research institution or financier, etc.);
- ▶ only the author's version (the final revised version before publishing layout) that is accepted for publication is concerned;
- ▶ if the publisher requires an embargo period, this may not exceed 12 months for the humanities and social sciences and 6 months for other sciences;
- ▶ the source of the initial publication must be mentioned.

Reminder: In ORBi, you can always archive the publisher's version of an article published in an Open Access journal, without any embargo.

## DOES THIS ALSO CONCERN MY OLD ARTICLES?

Yes. This law applies to any articles that fall under the aforementioned conditions, even if they were published before 5 September 2018, the date on which the law came into effect.

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO ME?

- ▶ This protects you, for the articles concerned, in the application of the decree of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.
- ▶ You retain a right to dissemination for your journal articles, including old articles.

## NEED ADVICE?

ULiège Library provides you with tools and documents that will help you with publishing and disseminating your works.

Check out [lib.uliege.be](http://lib.uliege.be) for tutorials, videos and information pages or contact the ORBi team or your reference library directly.



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