



## RUTGERS POLICY

**Section:** 50.3.17

**Section Title:** Legal Matters

**Policy Name:** Open Access Policy

**Formerly Book:** n/a

**Approval Authority:** President

**Responsible Executive:** Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Responsible Office:** Rutgers University Libraries

**Originally Issued:** 10/29/2014

**Revisions:**

**Errors or Changes:** Contact: Office of the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian 848-932-7505

1. **Policy Statement**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is one of the nation's leading research universities and the State's preeminent comprehensive public institution of higher education. Rutgers is dedicated to conducting research that breaks new ground, and to turning knowledge into solutions for local, national, and global communities.

Sharing scholarship is key to advancing knowledge. In support of greater openness, Rutgers scholars seek to collaborate and share their work as widely as possible. An open access policy will increase the visibility, readership and impact of Rutgers scholarship and ensure that it is widely and permanently available in the University's digital repository to readers and researchers worldwide.

2. **Reason for Policy**

To promote open and free access to peer-reviewed literature.

3. **Who Should Read This Policy**

All members of the faculty, as well as Rutgers graduate and post-doctoral students, while they are employed by, or enrolled at, Rutgers.

4. **Related Documents**

Section 50.3.7 Copyright Policy

Section 50.3.15 Legacy UMDNJ policies associated with Intellectual Property: Copyrights & Royalties.

Section 50.3.16 Legacy UMDNJ policies associated with Intellectual Property: Educational Use of Copyrighted Works

5. **Contacts**  
Office of the Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, 848-932-7505

6. **The Policy**

### **50.3.17 OPEN ACCESS POLICY**

This Policy shall apply to all members of the faculty, as well as Rutgers graduate and post-doctoral students, while they are employed by, or enrolled at, Rutgers (hereinafter "Scholar"). Each Scholar grants to Rutgers University a nonexclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each of his or her scholarly articles, as defined below, in any medium, provided that the articles are not sold for a profit, solely for the purpose of providing and maintaining public access to them. The term "scholarly articles" generally refers to peer-reviewed journal articles or conference proceedings created without expectation of payment. It does not include books, commissioned articles, artworks, popular writings, fiction, poetry or pedagogical materials such as lecture notes and videos, case studies and the like.

This Policy does not alter copyright ownership rights determined in accordance with law or with Rutgers University or Legacy UMDNJ copyright policies. The Policy applies to all scholarly articles authored or co-authored while the person is affiliated with Rutgers, except for any articles completed before the adoption of this Policy, and any articles for which the scholar entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. Affiliated with Rutgers means employed by, or enrolled at, Rutgers.

The Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (or designee) will grant a waiver for a particular article or delay access for a specified period of time (an "embargo") upon express direction by a Scholar.

The University also commits to educating students at the graduate level in the principles and practices of Open Access.

Each Scholar will provide, at no charge, an electronic copy of the author's final version of each article, no later than the date of its publication, to the designated representative of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, in an appropriate format (such as PDF) as specified by the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. An author's final version is the version that follows formal peer review, sometimes called the "postprint," as distinguished from the publisher's branded PDF version.