



Membership Criteria for the Working Group of German-speaking University Presses

(Version July 2020)

The dynamic development of the scientific communication system has brought about novel scientific publishing houses, presses, publication services, platforms and other infrastructures providing publishing services.

The institutions operating these services are invited to become members of the “AG Universitätsverlage” (working group of German-speaking University Presses), given they meet the criteria listed below. For the sake of simplicity, in the following we refer to them as “publisher”.

1. Commitment to Open Access and Open Science

(a) Open Access publishing options in the sense of the Berlin Declaration are visibly offered to authors and editors.

(b) The respective open access version of a publication is accessible via the publisher’s website, regardless of whether the publishing platform is within the publisher’s responsibility or operated by another institution.

(c) Long-term availability of such open-access versions and their metadata is ensured by a recognised platform for ensuring long-term availability and/or a scientific/public institution.

(d) The publisher is open to new or experimental forms of publishing that support Open Science (linking to research data, enhanced publications, annotations, machine readability etc.).

2. Science-friendly rights policy

A science-friendly rights policy enables research results to be received and used as widely as possible. Scientific authors therefore retain control over their own publications and need to transfer only those rights required for publishing services.

(a) The publisher provides clear information on the intellectual property rights aspects of its publishing services.

(b) The publisher will obtain simple, i.e. non-exclusive rights of use from authors for the central distribution formats.

(c) Authors will only have to transfer rights that the publisher is going to make use of (e.g. online publication, distribution of print copies, translations where appropriate).

(d) In order to grant the general public the widest possible usage rights, Open Access publications are published under recognised licences for free subsequent use. The Creative Commons licence CC BY is recommended.

3. Acting professionally as a publisher

(a) The services offered are described on the publisher’s website.

(b) The publications in all available versions are presented as a recognisable collection.

(c) The publisher has acknowledged and professional procedures for the preparation, provision and long-term availability of scientific content in place.



4. *Publisher's programme*

- (a) The publishing programme consists mainly of quality-controlled primary scientific publications.
- (b) Secondary publications or publications that have not passed a review process (e.g. working papers, reports) as well as PR material for the main institution represent smaller shares of the publishing programme.

5. *Target group of the service*

- (a) The offer is addressed to scientific authors and editors.
- (b) The service of a publisher is open to members of its own institution and / or for authors working on subject areas represented in the publisher's programme.

6. *Quality assurance according to scientific standards*

- (a) The publisher takes discipline-specific, recognised measures to ensure the high scientific quality of the published content (internal and/or external review; scientific quality assurance).
- (b) The publisher supports good scientific practice throughout its publishing workflows.
- (c) The publisher takes measures to ensure formal and technical quality (production, layout, referencing, file formats, metadata, etc.).
- (d) The publisher verifiably guarantees the quality of the publishing workflows (e.g. workflow description on publisher's website).

7. *Organisation*

- (a) The publishing service is linked to a nominated research institution or to a scientific infrastructure.
- (b) The institution visibly recognises the publisher or publication service (e.g. naming it on the institution's website).

8. *Business Model*

- (a) The publishing service is not run to maximise profits.
- (b) The cooperation with the scientific authors and editors is based on partnership.
- (c) Open access publishing is a central component of the business model and is not only conceived as an additional fee-based service to the print production.

9. *Member's collegial cooperation*

- (a) Members commit themselves to cooperate within the working group in a transparent and collegial fashion
- (b) This includes in particular regular participation in the working group's communication (forum, mailing list, etc.), participation in sub-working groups and, if necessary, financial support of the working group.
- (c) The joint websites (e.g. AG catalogue, website) are supported.
- (d) When taking part in joint exhibitions and trade fairs, the planning, preparation, design and stand management is supported.