

Title	Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Open Access Compliance Monitoring 2015
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DOI	10.5281/zenodo.55249
Publishing Date	21 June 2016
Publication Type	Report
Publication Venue	FWF Statistics
Peer Review	no
Subject Areas	Library and Information Studies
Keywords	Open Access, Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Academic Publishing, Scholarly Communication
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Cite as	Kunzmann M et al (2016). Austrian Science Fund (FWF) Open Access Compliance Monitoring 2015. FWF Statistics. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.55249
Data Availability	The data cited in the report can be found here: 10.5281/zenodo.55249
Competing Interests	All authors are staff members of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and conducted the report during their working time.
Funding	no external funding
Author Contributions	KR and RR collected and corrected the data. MK and FR conceived and designed the data analysis and wrote the paper.
Acknowledgements	We thank Harald Kroneisl (FWF), Ina Matt (FWF) and Klaus Zinöcker (FWF) for support with collecting the dataset and proof-reading. Furthermore, we thank David Solomon (Michigan State University), Éric Archambault (Science Metrix) and Jan Erik Frantsvåg (University of Tromsø) for providing helpful comments. The remaining flaws are our own.



FWF-REPORT

AUSTRIAN SCIENCE FUND (FWF) OPEN ACCESS COMPLIANCE MONITORING 2015

Executive Summary

Since 2008 the <u>Austrian Science Fund</u> (FWF), Austria's central funding organisation for basic research, requires from and supports all project leaders and project staff members to make their peer-reviewed research results freely available through the Internet.

All principal investigators of FWF funded projects are obliged to submit a final report three months after the project is finished. The average duration of an FWF funded project from the beginning to the delivery of the final project report is around 4.5 years.

Publications and other data from these reports are archived and evaluated by the FWF. The report at hand shall therefore evaluate the state and compliance of Open Access on the basis of publications from final project reports submitted in the year 2015.

Main findings:

- In total 6,241 publications were listed in the final project reports submitted in 2015.
- Out of these 4,580 could be clearly defined as peer-reviewed.
- Regarding the evaluation of the Open Access policy of the FWF, the report enumerates a share of 83% of all peer-reviewed publications coming out of FWF projects being openly accessible.
- FWF researchers appear more likely to choose Hybrid Open Access. Green Open Access is the second most selected option. The use of Gold Open Access has slowly but steadily increased over time.
- The majority of peer-reviewed publications submitted are journal articles with an Open Access share of 81% up to 87%.
- The lowest Open Access compliance can be found in editions, collected volumes and monographs with 18% to 26%.
- Although not compulsory, 42% of non peer-reviewed publications are freely available.



I. Introduction

The essence of Open Access is not to have an Open Access Policy in place but to what extent researcher publish Open Access. However, if a research funder or research performing organisation has introduced an Open Access Policy, the claim is clearly higher that researchers comply with it. That is even truer for an early adopter like the FWF.

After signing the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities" in 2003, the FWF released its first Open Access Policy in 2004. At that time, it was still a recommendation rather than a mandate. This approach changed in 2008, when Open Access became compulsory for all peer-reviewed publications resulting from FWF funded projects, with certain exceptions accommodated during this early policy stage. Since 2015, however, exceptions for peer-reviewed publications are no longer possible and starting in 2016, final project reports require that all peer-reviewed publications have to be Open Access.

Despite having one of the most effective Open Access Policies among funders worldwide according to a qualitative (<u>Yonta et al 2015</u>) and quantitative (<u>Swan 2016</u>) study by <u>PASTEUR4OA</u>, a 100% Open Access quota has not been reached yet. However, the FWF aims to achieve a nearly all Open Access output by 2020.

Facing the problem of tracking Open Access

An earlier attempt to track publications has roughly estimated an Open Access share of 65% of all peer reviewed publications coming out of FWF funded projects (see Reckling 2014). In this draft, several problems in achieving an adequate empirical monitoring were already discussed:

- Since 2013, the FWF publishes data on publication costs administered by the programmes <u>Peer-Reviewed Publications</u> and <u>Stand-Alone Publications</u>. However, these publications only account for a small number of articles resulting from FWF funded projects. The majority of publications are instead only reported to the FWF via the final project reports, which must be sent in after the end of a project by the due date; in most cases this happens at least four years after the project start. Thus, in many cases there is a long delay between the date of publication and the submission of the final project report, which complicates simultaneous tracking of the entire FWF publication output.
- Furthermore, a significant part of the project output is published after the final project reports are rendered and therefore not tracked by the FWF. To fill this gap, a project has been undertaken to track articles via funding acknowledgments. But this method also has its limitations and is not working out (see <u>Costas & Yegros 2013</u>).

Having that in mind, an approach is now proposed which does not cover all publications but analyses a much better sample: The FWF tracked and checked all publications that were listed in final project reports submitted in 2015.



Peer Review

Peer-reviewed publications must have a quality assurance process according to international standards. Journals have to be listed in <u>Web of Science</u>, <u>Scopus</u> or the <u>Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)</u>. If they are not listed or for monographs, anthologies and other publications, the following criterion has to be fulfilled: the peer-review process needs to be described on the website of the publication venue.

Data availability

The underlying dataset of this paper provides the following information:

- FUNDING PROGRAMME: Type of programme funded by the FWF.
- PROJECT NUMBER: The external project number after successful application.
- PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Project holder of the research project.
- DISCIPLINE: Divided into Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- PUBLICATION TYPE: Refers to the format of the publication and is differentiated into Book Chapter, Collected Volume, Journal Article, Monograph, Proceeding.
- AUTHORS: If there are more than two authors, the first and the last one are indicated.
- TITLE: Refers to the title of the article, monograph, book chapter, proceeding etc. as stated on the website of the publication venue or stated in the final report.
- YEAR OF PUBLICATION: Refers to the year of publication.
- DESCRIPTION: Mostly used to cite collected volumes or non peer-reviewed publications.
- PUBLISHER: The information about the names of publishers was found at (a) <u>Romeo/Sherpadatabase</u> or (b) the venue websites.
- JOURNAL/PROCEEDING: The information about journal titles was collected from Scopus or from the website of the publication venue.
- OPEN ACCESS TYPE: According to the FWF guidelines, we differentiate between four forms: Open Access (Gold / Hybrid / Green / Other) and 'no Open Access' (see below).
- PEER REVIEW: We differentiate between 'peer reviewed' and 'non-peer reviewed' publications (see below).
- LICENCE: The status of the reuse licences is tracked esp. for *Gold* and *Hybrid Open Access*.
- TYPE OF LINK: Only used for Open Access publications and describes the persistent identifier.
- PERSISTENT IDENTIFIER: DOI number or other identifier.
- ISBN: As long as feasible, the 15-digital ISBN is indicated.



II. Final Project Reports in 2015

In 2015, 492 final project reports of FWF funded research projects were submitted to the FWF. Most of the final project reports resulted from *Stand-Alone projects* with 286 items (58%), followed by *International Programmes* with 66 items (13%).

Table 1: Funding programmes / Final project reports submitted in 2015¹

Funding Programme	Final Reports submitted	%	
Stand-Alone Projects	286	58%	
International Programme	66	13%	
Erwin Schrödinger Fellowship	48	10%	
Lise Meitner Programme	23	5%	
Translational Research Programme	16	3%	
Elise Richter Programme	12	2%	
Start Programme	11	2%	
Hertha Firnberg Programme	9	2%	
National Research Programme (NFN)	1	<0.5%	
Programme For Arts Based Research	6	1%	
Special Research Programme (SFB)	3	1%	
Programme Clinical Research	4	1%	
Science Communication Programme	4	1%	
Wittgenstein Award	2	<0.5%	
Doctoral Programme (DK)	1	<0.5%	
Total	492	100%	

In these final reports a total of 6,241 publications were listed, the publication years ranged from one outlier in 2004, up to 2016. For statistical reasons the years from 2004 to 2011 were aggregated. 2016, due to small amounts of publications, was not included in the figures. Four contributions in the media and one artistic research presentation could not be dated at all.

Table 2: Publishing year / Number of publications

Number of Items % **Publishing Year** 2004 1 <0.5% 9 2007 <0.5% 2008 44 1% 2009 108 2% 2010 291 5% 2011 641 10%

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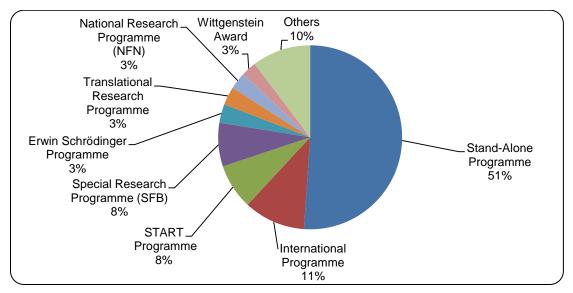
Please note: NFNs and SFBs are shown per submitted final project reports, in regard of the single subprojects, the division would be as follows: NFN =6 subprojects; SFB =28 subprojects. For *Translational Research Programme* and *National Research Programme* no links can be provided, since both programmes have been discontinued in 2012 and 2013.



2012	1,085	17%
2013	1,368	22%
2014	1,669	27%
2015	1,007	16%
2016	14	<0.5%
no date	4	<0.5%
Total	6,241	100%

Considering the share of submitted final project reports per funding programme, a slight deviation in the distribution of publications can be seen. *Stand-Alone Projects*, which account for 58% of the submitted reports, reach 51% (3,188) of the publications, *START Programmes* and *Wittgenstein Awards* account for only 3% of the final project reports but for 13% of the publications. This can be explained by different project durations (*START/Wittgenstein* twice as long as *Stand-Alone Projects*) and by different funding amounts (*START/Wittgenstein* EUR 1.2 – 1.5 Mio vs. *Stand-Alone Projects* on average EUR 0.3 Mio).

Figure 1: Share of programmes of all submitted publications



The FWF funding is divided into three disciplinary clusters: *Biology and Medical Sciences*, *Humanities and Social Sciences* and *Natural and Technical Sciences*. The projects are assigned to the respective disciplinary field during the application process, depending on the main topic of research, not on the actual field of the principal investigator.

Table 3: Number of publications within disciplines and share of submitted final project reports

Disciplinary Cluster	No. of Items	Publications %	Final Reports submitted %
Humanities and Social Sciences	1,237	20%	20%
Biology and Medical Sciences	2,386	38%	41%
Natural und Technical Sciences	2,618	42%	39%
Total	6,241	100%	100%

Distributing the peer-reviewed publications among the disciplinary groups, the majority of proceedings (232 items out of 273) relates to *Natural and Technical Sciences*, whereas more than half of the journal articles relate to *Biology and Medical Sciences* (1,995 items out of



3,971). Monographs, editions and collected volumes (225 items out of 336) though play a significant role in *Humanities and Social Sciences* with a share of 46%.

Out of the 6,241 publications listed in the final project reports, 4,580 are regarded as peer-reviewed and 1,661 are not peer-reviewed according to FWF's guideline.

From the 4,580 peer-reviewed publications, 4,244 (93%) are journal articles (3,971 items) and proceedings (273 items).

Table 4: Peer-reviewed vs. non peer-reviewed items²

Type of Publication	No. of Items	Peer-Reviewed Items	Non Peer- Reviewed Items	%
Journal Article	4,282	3,971	311	69%
Proceeding	1,043	273	770	17%
Collected Volume / Edition / Monograph	633	336	297	10%
Working Paper / Preprint / Research Data	117		117	2%
Artistic research presentations / Others	110		110	2%
Contributions for the media	56		56	1%
Total	6,241	4,580	1,661	100%

III. Open Access Compliance Rate

The FWF distinguishes different formats of Open Access and asks the project holders to label their peer-reviewed publications accordingly in the final project report³. The labeling is additionally checked by the FWF staff:

- a) Gold Open Access: published in an Open Access venue, with or without an author fee⁴
- b) **Hybrid Open Access:** published in a subscription venue but Open Access through an author fee⁵
- c) **Green Open Access:** self-archived copy of the "final accepted manuscript" in an Open Access repository, which might include an embargo period of maximum 12 months⁶
- d) Other Open Access: any other type of Open Access⁷

For the Open Access compliance monitoring, peer-reviewed, as well as non peer-reviewed publications were analysed separately. That is because the current Open Access Policy of the FWF, similar to policies of other funding agencies, mandates only peer-reviewed publications to Open Access, while Open Access for non peer-reviewed publications is recommended but not mandatory.

7

One proceeding published in the Science Communication Programme is not mentioned.

See: https://www.fwf.ac.at/en/research-funding/open-access-policy/

See: Directory of Open Access Journals: http://www.doaj.org

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hybrid_open_access_journal

⁶ See: Directory of Open Access Repositories, and for the embargo period http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/

E.g.: Homepages, Preprints, unmaintained repositories



1. Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

1,661 of all publications (27%) are not peer-reviewed but, although not compulsory, 42.5% are publicly available (42.5%). Most of them have a persistent identifier.

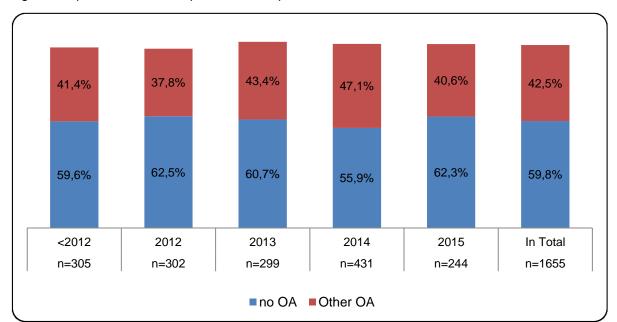


Figure 2: Open Access of non peer-reviewed publications

2. Peer-reviewed Publications

As described earlier, four Open Access types were distinguished. Considering all four, an Open Access compliance rate of 83% Open Access was achieved. The undetermined type of *Other Open Access* aside, 75% of openly accessible publications were obtained.

The majority of peer-reviewed publications submitted are journal articles with an Open Access share of 87%. The lowest Open Access compliance can be found in the publication formats editions, collected volumes and monographs with 26% or 18%. 85% or 67% of proceedings can be found openly available.

Table 5: Peer-reviewed publications and the share of Open Access within the respective format

Format of Publication	Peer-Reviewed Items	Openly Available %		
Journal Article	3,971	87%		
Proceeding	273	85%		
Collected Volume / Edition / Monograph	336	26%		
Total	4,580			

Looking at the publication years considered, it can be observed that the preferred options are *Hybrid Open Access* with 40%, followed by Green Open Access with 22%. Thus, the least used type over the years is *Other Open Access* with 7% in total. An increase of the use of *Gold Open Access* by four percentage points from the time period <2012 to 2015 can be seen.



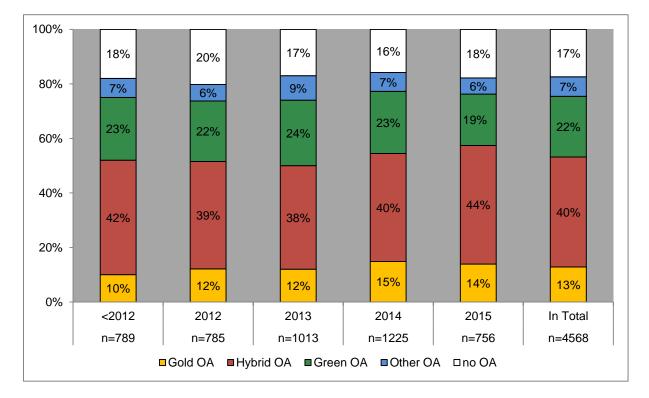


Figure 3: Types of Open Access of peer-reviewed publication

Offset Deals with Publishing Venues

It is important to note that the FWF together with <u>Austrian Academic Library Consortium</u> (KEMÖ) have negotiated <u>offsetting deals</u> with various publishers (IOP Publishing, Royal Society of Chemistry, Taylor & Francis, Springer, Sage) to avoid double-dipping. That means Article Processing Charges (APCs) spent by the FWF for *Hybrid Open Access* are offset against Austrian library subscriptions. The FWF has announced the pay in the future for *Hybrid Open Access* only for those publishers where offsetting deals are in place. Due to these deals the *Hybrid Open Access* share is higher than the other ones.



IV. Share of Open Access Publications analysed by Disciplinary Clusters

Analyses of the disciplinary clusters *Biology and Medical Sciences*, *Natural and Technical Sciences* and *Humanities and Social Sciences* show a slightly different picture of Open Access compliance. The following analyses take only peer-reviewed publications into account.

1. Humanities and Social Sciences

A total of 486 peer-reviewed publications were listed in the final project reports of this disciplinary cluster, with one half being journal articles (244 items or 50%), and the other (225 items or 46%) mostly monographs, collections and editions, in accordance with the publishing tradition of this discipline cluster.

Tournal Articles

Collected Volumes

Proceedings

Editions

Monographs

Figure 4: Share of types of peer-reviewed of publications – Humanities and Social Sciences

Whereas 65% of journal articles and proceedings are freely available, only 21% of all submitted editions, collected volumes and monographs can be found openly accessible. A closer examination of Open Access distributed over the publication years, shows a clear increase in the use of *Other Open Access* from 5% to 15%, the number of *no Open Access* decreased from 65% to 51% in 2015, some more *Green Open Access* publications are expected for 2015 after the publishing houses' embargo periods end. Furthermore, an increase of *Gold Open Access* can be seen (from 6% up to 10%).



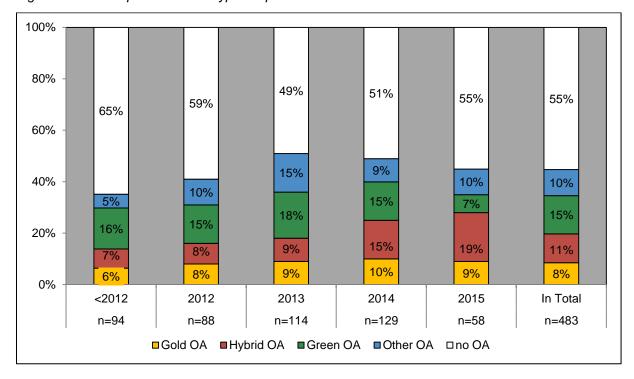


Figure 6: Share of peer-reviewed types of publications - Humanities and Social Sciences

2. Biology and Medical Sciences

In the disciplinary cluster *Biology and Medical Sciences* peer-reviewed journal articles with 1,995 items (96.4%) are in lead, whereas only 47 collected volumes and editions can be registered (a share of 2.3%). The final reports did not list any published monographs. 23 proceedings with a share of 1.1% were registered. In total 2,065 peer-reviewed publications were covered in this disciplinary cluster.

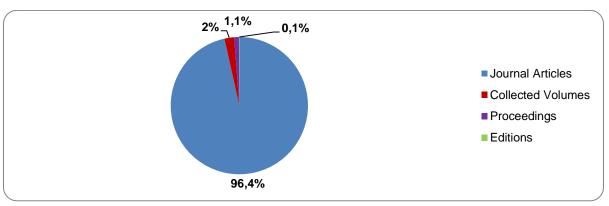


Figure 6: Share of peer-reviewed types of publications – Biology and Medical Sciences

The predominant Open Access option is *Hybrid Open Access* with 1,138 items and a share of 55%. The share of *Hybrid Open Access* decreased from the first time period (2007-2011) to 2014 by 10 percentage points, in favor of an increase of *Gold Open Access* by 5 percentage points. The type *Other Open Access* is hardly registered within this disciplinary cluster with 62 items (3% over the years). *Green Open Access* has its ups and downs from 7% to 15% (10% over the years), the highest share can therefore be found in 2014. All in all, 302 non-publicly accessible publications were registered (15%).



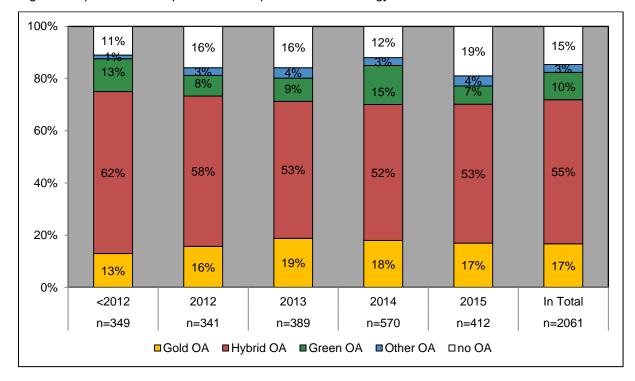


Figure 7: Open Access of peer-reviewed publications - Biology and Medical Sciences

3. Natural and Technical Sciences

Besides the predominant journal articles that make 85% of all listed 2,029 peer-reviewed publications, proceedings take a share of 11% (233 items). Some conference contributions were also subsequently published in journals. Attributing these to proceedings, the result would increase the share of this type of publication to 20%.

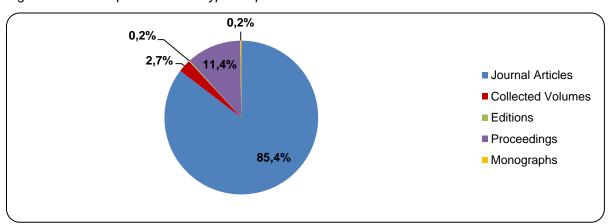


Figure 8: Share of peer-reviewed types of publications – Natural and Technical Sciences

Having a look at Open Access, *Hybrid* (32%) was nearly used as frequently as *Green Open Access* (36%), with a slight preference for *Green Open Access*. In the publication year 2012 *Green Open Access* is registered 9 percentage points more often than *Hybrid Open Access*. The overall of *Gold Open Access* (202 items or 10%), *Othr Open Access* (216 items or 11%) and *no Open Access* (229 item or 11%), is quite balanced. Whereas no clear change in the use of *Gold Open Access* can be detected, in *Other Open Access* a slight decrease is evident over the years.



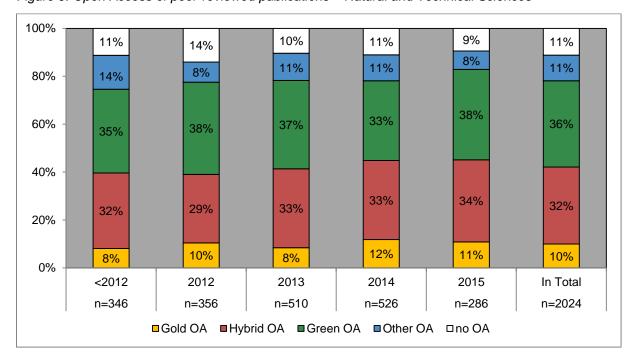


Figure 9: Open Access of peer-reviewed publications - Natural and Technical Sciences

V. Use of Open Access Types in the Disciplinary Clusters: A Comparative Look

From a comparative disciplinary perspective, *Hybrid Open Access* and *Gold Open Access* are more frequently used in *Biology and Medical Sciences*, whereas *Green Open Access* is more prevalent in *Natural and Technical Sciences*. The highest share of non-freely accessible publications (55% throughout the publications years) can be found in *Humanities and Social Sciences*. The lowest share of non-publicly available peer-reviewed publications (11%) can be found In *Natural and Technical Sciences*. Given the choice between three Open Access options, FWF researchers appear more likely to choose *Hybrid Open Access*.

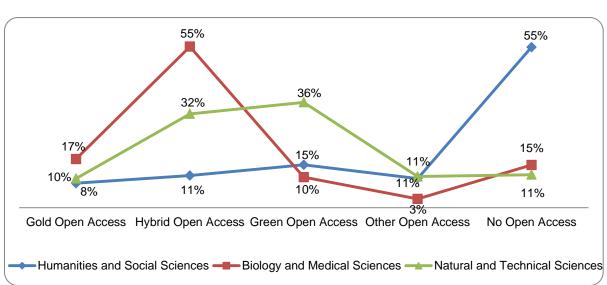


Figure 10: Share of Open Access within the disciplinary clusters



VI. Share of Publishers

The publishing houses *Elsevier*, *Wiley-Blackwell* and *Springer Nature* altogether accounted for slightly more than half (51%) of the costs spent through the programme *Peer-Reviewed Publications* in 2015 (see Rieck et al 2016). Subsequently all peer-reviewed publications resulting from final project reports submitted in 2015 and dated from 2007 to 2016 were analysed. A share of 43% (1952 items out of 4580) for these three publishing venues was elicited. Remarkably, only *Springer Nature* is in the top three of all disciplinary clusters. In *Biology and Medical Sciences* most articles are published with *Elsevier*. In *Humanities and Social Sciences* the most common publishing house is *De Gruyter*. The following table lists the five most used publishers in the respective disciplinary cluster.

Table 6: Use of publishers and share of disciplines of peer-reviewed publications⁸

Dublisher	No. of Peer-Reviewed Publications				
Publisher	Humanities and Social Sciences	Biology and Medical Sciences	Natural and Technical Sciences	In Total	%
American Physical Society (APS)	1	1	145	146	3%
Elsevier	12	452	310	774	17%
Institute of Electrical And Electronics Engineers (IEEE)	13	15	131	159	3%
Publisher of the Austrian Academy of Science (ÖAW)	49	1	1	51	1%
Public Library of Science (PLOS)	1	130	5	135	3%
Springer Nature	44	289	403	736	16%
Taylor & Francis	22	55	26	103	2%
De Gruyter	74	17	15	106	2%
Wiley-Blackwell	15	296	131	442	10%
Others	257	809	862	1928	42%
Total	486	2065	2029	4580	100%

Especially in *Humanities and Social Sciences* a greater bandwidth of publishers can be seen, with more than the half (257 out of 486 publications, 53%) not covered within the most commonly used publishers. They are therefore grouped as *Others*. This group has only 809 items out of 2,065 in the *Biology and Medical Sciences* (39%) and 862 items out of 2,029 in *Natural and Technical Sciences* (42.5%).

VII. Bias

All publications were entered manually with utmost care into the FWF's database at the time of submission of the final project reports. Nevertheless, small errors cannot be entirely excluded. Moreover, some systematic problems have to be solved in the future:

Highlighted green are the top three publishing houses of the respective disciplinary group, blue the top three publishing houses of all submitted peer-reviewed publications.



- Due to the amount of data, not all publications could be checked twice for their current Open Access status. Here we hope and expect the development of tools, based on the persistent identifier of the publication, which will be able to track the compliance status automatically.
- In some cases the embargo period may have expired after submission and the publication that was entered into the FWF's database as Other Open Access may by now be accessible through Green Open Access.
- Whenever the status peer-reviewed could not be clearly identified according to the FWF guidelines, these publications were specified as non peer-reviewed.
- There are still difficulties recording publications that are published after the completion of the final report. Therefore, the FWF is preparing a research information system, in which project investigators are able to enter data of their final reports including publications even after the project is finished.

VIII. Conclusions

In this report we tried to structure the Open Access landscape of all publications listed in final project reports submitted to the FWF in 2015. Since this is the first attempt, additional reports in the following years will certainly offer more and deeper possibilities of comparison and evaluation.

It can be seen that due to the FWF's Open Access Policy, the share of publicly accessible peer-reviewed publications arising from FWF-funded projects is 83%. If we exclude *Other Open Access*, still 75% of peer-reviewed publications were published following the FWF's Policy.

The estimated Open Access share in 2013 (Reckling 2014) has been exceeded. Since from January 2016 onward Open Access is mandatory for all final reports, the FWF expects nearly 100% Gold or Green Open Access for all peer-reviewed publications reported by 2020. In a longer perspective and in the line with the "Recommendations for the Transition to Open Access in Austria" by an expert group of the Open Access Network Austria (OANA), the FWF aims at Gold Open Access without delay for all scholarly publication activity coming of FWFfunded project by 2025. To that end, the FWF supports the initiative OA2020 by the Max Planck Society on the one side. That basically means to transform today's scholarly publishing to Open Access and to "... re-organize the underlying cash flows, to establish transparency with regard to costs and potential savings, and to adopt mechanisms to avoid undue publication barriers". In other words, publishers should not be compensated for bundles of publications but for transparent services per publication. On the other side, to avoid unrestrained market concentration (see Larivière et al 2015, Rieck et al 2016), investments in alternative Open Access publication models, services and infrastructures across the borders and beyond big commercial providers are needed (see for example the proposal by Knowledge Exchange).



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