

ULB Institutional policy on Open Access to publications

(Adopted by the Academic Board on 9 July 2018)

Introduction

The University's open access policy was updated by the Academic Board on 9 July 2018, in order to take into account the provisions of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation **Decree on the establishment of a policy of open access to scientific publications** ([‘Décret visant à l'établissement d'une politique de libre accès aux publications scientifiques \(Open Access\)’](#)), which came into effect at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year, i.e. on 14 September 2018.

This decree is based on the principle that disseminating the results of research funded by public subsidies not only enables the free flow of knowledge, therefore fostering innovation, but it also increases the visibility of researchers as well as the accessibility and impact of their work. This puts the Wallonia-Brussels Federation's open access policy in line with those of other funding bodies like the F.R.S.-FNRS and the European Commission.

Rules governing open access to scientific publications by ULB researchers.

Any researcher who has a contractual or statutory link with the University is required:

- to **input** the full list of their publications into [DI-fusion](#), the ULB institutional repository, in order to create their official list of publications at ULB;
- to **upload the full text** of their publications to [DI-fusion](#) (author's final manuscript as approved for publication [postprint] or publisher's version) immediately upon acceptance for publication;
- to make the full text of their publications **available to the public in open access**, immediately or after a period prescribed by the publisher, it being understood that for any publication released from 14 September 2018 onwards in a periodical published at least once a year, **and** which is the result of a research during which the author was affiliated with the ULB or with another higher education institution of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, this period may not exceed 6 months after publications for science, technology, and medicine, or 12 months for social sciences and humanities.

Impact on applications

The list of publications produced by DI-fusion is the only one *for ULB researchers* that is officially recognised by the [French Community of Belgium](#). Therefore, only this list may be submitted with any application form (e.g. for credits, promotions, etc.). Regarding articles published in a periodical from 14 September 2018 onwards, only those whose full text is uploaded and accessible in accordance with the rules specified above will be considered when assessing applications for appointments, promotions, or credits.