



Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Institutional Policy for Open Access to Scientific Publications

Institute's compliance to open access principles

Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS, the Italian National Institute of Health) encourages communication and exchange of the research results from our institutional activities, to increase their visibility and impact in the whole scientific community and to enable the development of new standards for research evaluation. This intent is achieved by compliance with the principles of open access to research literature and through the most advanced techniques of registration and dissemination of digital data.

The ISS is a signatory of the Berlin Declaration on open access to scientific knowledge (http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/BerlinDeclaration_it.pdf) and of the Petition to the European Commission in support of the open and free access to the results of research supported by public funds (<http://www.ec-petition.eu/>).

Open access to the research literature can be achieved in two complementary ways:

1) publication in OA journals, and 2) archiving of publications in digital repositories compliant with the OAI-PMH specifications.

DSpace ISS digital repository

In compliance with OA principles, the ISS has created an online digital repository (<http://dspace.iss.it>) which functions as the institutional archive for its publications, guaranteeing open access and long term preservation of research results.

DSpace ISS contains all the scientific works produced by the research staff of ISS (authorised for publication following an internal procedure) published at a national and international level. The data contained in the repository are bibliographic data (metadata) of the publications, along with full texts.

The ISS policy applies only to peer-reviewed articles, but sometimes researchers may wish to include non-peer-reviewed material in DSpace ISS too. The peer-reviewed status of each article deposited is clearly shown and it is possible to search DSpace ISS only for peer-reviewed material if desired.

DSpace ISS is also a digital platform which hosts collections of documents produced by other research institutes operating in public health and related disciplines.

Storing in DSpace ISS repository

All scientific works produced by ISS staff must be transmitted in electronic format (author's final copy, after peer-review: "post-print") to the Publishing Activities Unit of ISS, at the moment of acceptance for publication. This Unit will immediately make them available on the ISS Intranet. The metadata will also be made available on the Internet, via DSpace ISS and, after the publisher embargo period has expired, the full texts will be made available too. During the embargo period, individual works can be requested from their authors through an automated function of DSpace.

The instructions for the transmission of the documents for the digital archive are detailed in the "Procedures for publication management". This also contains instructions for partner institutions of the DSpace ISS.