On April 18, 2012, the Rice Faculty Senate passed an open access policy to make all articles published by Rice faculty available as open access publications. Although new to Rice, this is not new to the larger academic community. Since 2003, more than 135 institutions and 52 funding bodies worldwide have implemented open access mandates for research publications, ensuring that the results of published research are available to society at no cost to end users.

**Rice’s Open Access Policy**

The current Rice copyright policy governing faculty publications will be followed, with the additional provision that Rice University will make published articles written by faculty members available for open dissemination. The policy will apply to all scholarly articles written while the person is a faculty member, except for publications completed before the adoption of this policy. The Provost or Provost’s designate will waive application of the policy for a particular scholarly publication upon written notification by the author, who informs Rice of the reason. Faculty members are further encouraged to make all of their publications, not just articles, available for open dissemination.

To assist Rice in distributing the scholarly articles, as of the date of publication, each faculty member will make available an electronic copy of his or her final version of the publication at no charge to a designated representative of the Provost’s Office in one of the appropriate formats specified by the Provost’s Office. The Provost’s Office will make the articles available to the public in an open-access repository, the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive. Upon request, an article will not be made available to the public for an agreed-upon embargo period. (See full text at https://professor.rice.edu/uploadedFiles/Professor/Faculty_Senate/Motion%20open%20access-4%20April%2018.pdf)

**Why Should I Make My Publications Available?**

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