

The Research Council of Norway's guidelines for open access to academic books

The guidelines for open access to books shall apply to calls for proposals from and including 2023, and they apply to *academic books*. In this context, *academic books* are defined as long-form publications, including monographs, book chapters and edited collections, that have a title and an ISBN and that are the product of research financed by the Research Council of Norway.

The guidelines apply to academic monographs and articles in anthologies as described in the Norwegian Scientific Index's (NVI) Reporting Instructions ([Reporting instructions – Cristin](#)), and in accordance with the Guidance on the Implementation of Plan S ([Implementation Guidance](#)).

cOAlition S's principles on open access for academic books

Plan S¹ points out that the publication of academic books differs from the publication of academic journal articles as standards and funding models may need more time to develop for academic books. cOAlition S has therefore developed its own principles for open access for academic books (2021).² Rather than adopting a uniform policy on OA books, cOAlition S has decided to draw up a set of overarching recommendations in line with the other Plan S Principles that all cOAlition S organisations will seek to adopt within their own remits and jurisdictions. The Research Council of Norway's guidelines for open access to academic books complies with the principles of cOAlition S and is adapted to national conditions in dialogue with the academic communities.

cOAlition S will collaborate with the OA books community to develop implementation guidelines that respect bibliodiversity. These guidelines will include a set of technical standards on OA books that mirror the technical requirements cOAlition S has set for OA journals and repositories ([Part III of the implementation guidance](#)).

The Research Council of Norway's guidelines for open access for academic books

1. These guidelines apply to academic books that are the product of research funded by the Research Council of Norway.
2. All academic books based on research funded by the Research Council of Norway shall be made available open access.
3. The Research Council of Norway recommends immediate open access publication, but if an embargo period is required, it must not exceed 12 months after publication.
4. Academic books shall be published under a Creative Commons licence (CC-BY, CC-BY-ND or CC-BY-NC) or other licence with equivalent rights.
5. Authors or their institutions shall retain sufficient intellectual property rights to make their academic books available open access and allow for re-use.
6. Costs of academic books that are published open access **without an embargo period** under an open licence can be covered through direct project costs. Books with an embargo period cannot be funded through project costs.

¹ It is stated in Plan S Principle 7 that the open access principles "shall apply to all types of scholarly publications, but it is understood that the timeline to achieve Open Access for monographs and book chapters will be longer and requires a separate and due process". Plan S's open access principles are available here: [Principles and Implementation | Plan S \(coalition-s.org\)](#)

² [cOAlition S statement on Open Access for academic books | Plan S \(coalition-s.org\)](#)