Japan Institutions Monitoring the National Open Science Policy

The Policy

Peer-reviewed articles resulting from JSPS Kakenhi grants, some JST grants, and one AMED grant that will be newly granted from April 2025 onwards must be accessible open access on publication. It is expected that this be immediate, either gold in open access or hybrid journals or as an accepted manuscript in a legitimate repository. If this is not possible because, for example of publishers' embargoes, then the reason must be given and the article made openly available when it can.

There is no requirement as to where articles are published or the license used but they must be peer-reviewed and openly readable by everyone. Most articles published on J-STAGE can be viewed by anyone, except those requiring authentication. For posting of accepted manuscripts, legitimate repositories include institutional repositories (IRs) and Jxiv.

Evidence data supporting the research must also be accessible. This can be supplementary material attached to the article or datasets posted on a recognized data repository, including (tentative name) GRANTS Data.

Responsibility for compliance will be with authors/researchers who are recipients of the nominated awards.

To understand the impact of open science for publicly funded research, the Cabinet Office will be monitoring the implementation of the policy.

OASE, a new consortium, has been formed to negotiate Transformative Agreements (Read and Publish) between publishers and universities and research institutes. Other consortia in Japan include JUSTICE, RUC, JMLA/JPLA, and JNLC.

Monitoring by Institutions

Institutions are expected to understand how they will monitor and report on their compliance.

In addition, many institutions are following the 'Green through Gold' route whereby they will populate their IRs with accepted manuscripts for all their researchers, even those who have been published open access in a journal.

Institutions have a number of ways in which this can be achieved and either this will be managed through their research management administration and/or their libraries. For the larger institutions, the former tend to have more resources. For libraries, it should be noted that whilst the larger institutions fund and manage their own libraries, many others have outsourced library management to companies such as Maruzen, Kinokuniya, and other service providers.

CHORUS

As described in the Chiba workflow using CHORUS and explained at the JST/CHORUS Library Fair Forum (https://www.chorusaccess.org/chiba-university-chorus-workflow/) and at the User Workshop (https://www.chorusaccess.org/events/chorus-use-case-workshop-for-institutions-in-japan/) by Yuta Kobayashi, Chiba University is planning to post links to open access articles using the CHORUS reporting on its IR and ask authors using the CHORUS author affiliation reports to post their accepted manuscripts into the IR. This is for both open access articles and those that can be posted after the publishers' embargo periods.

CHORUS will be investigating adding Corresponding authors to the institution reports during 2025, which will make work easier for the librarians or IR managers.

The key points of the CHORUS solution are as follows:
- Provides trusted information about outputs of funded research.
- Delivers optimized search and dashboard services for monitoring and compliance.
- Monitors and reports on open access of research outputs on publishers' platforms.
- Has direct links to article DOIs.
- Shows where an accepted manuscript is available open access on a publisher's journal platform.
- Reports dates after embargo periods when accepted manuscripts can be posted on an IR.
- Has links to research datasets underpinning research articles.
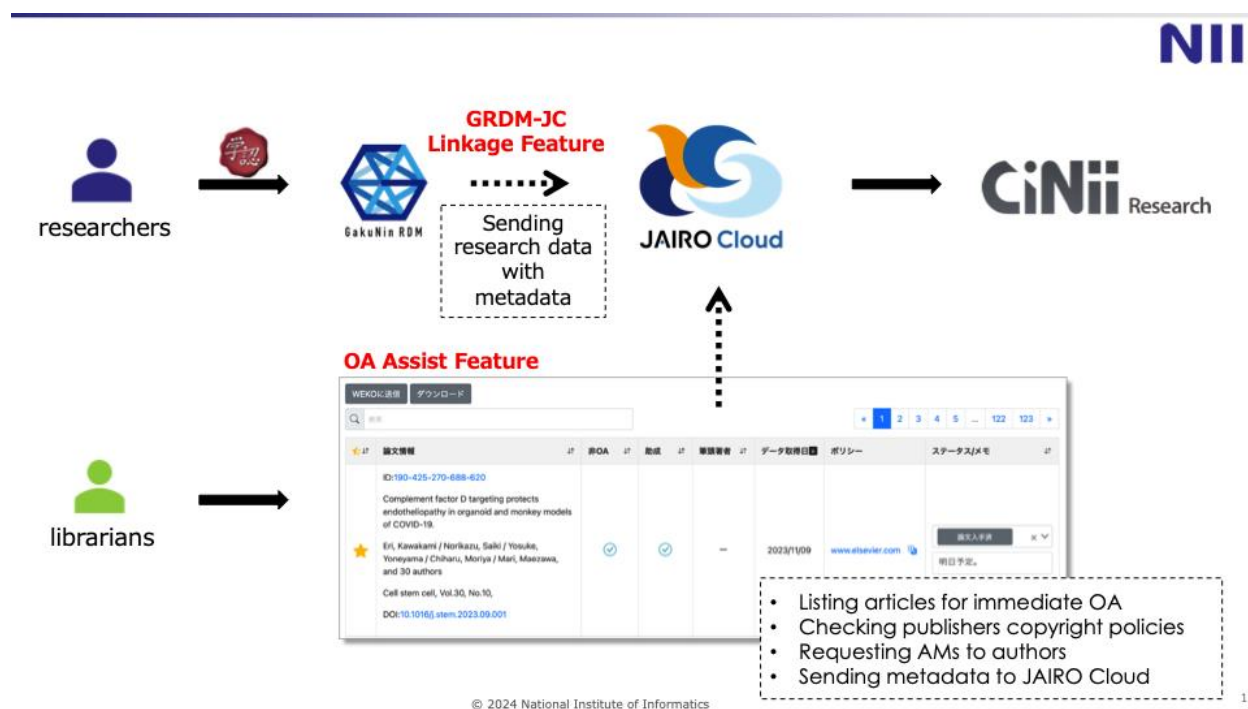
NII

The JAIRO Cloud provides a centralized platform for hosting institutional repositories, reducing the need for individual institutions to maintain their own technical infrastructure. NII is

developing its reporting to provide centralized data from all the institutions which use JAIRO Cloud.

CiNii Research is a database of research outputs.

CiNii has just launched a trial version of CiNii Research Institutional Dashboard which "aims to promote open science and support institutional research by visualizing research activities, research products, and their impact with respect to each institution. We currently offer the trial version (Japanese only)."

In addition, NII is developing an "Open Access Assist" feature where institutions can see what outputs and articles are created by their researchers and whether they are available open access or not. It will have functions like 'contact the author' and 'send metadata to JAIRO Cloud', so that users can upload accepted manuscripts. JAIRO Cloud connects with the CiNii Research discovery service. The slide from Yutaka Hayashi's presentation at the JST/CHORUS Library Fair Forum explains how:

NII also hosts the JPCOAR (Japan Consortium for Open Access Repository) website, which features the JAIRO Cloud. It is described as "a collaborative organization that promotes the development, operation, and enhancement of open-access repositories".

Build Your Own

Applications by universities for the one-off Yen10 billion grant included a range of ways to investigate building the capacity of their IRs and their ability to monitor open access compliance. Some of these plans were presented at the JPCOAR in-person session at the November 2024 Library Fair.