April 2013

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

JST Policy on Open Access

* The Japanese-language version of this policy is the authentic text. The English translation is provided for your information.

There is a global trend towards open accessibility of the results of publicly funded research due to the spread of information distribution platforms enabled by digitization and the internet, and that being the case, establishment of open access is promoted in the 4th Science and Technology Basic Plan. At the same time as promoting transparency of public funding to research and its outcomes, open access to scientific results enables wider dissemination of research results to the public, communication between researchers and the public on science and technology topics, and makes an essential contribution toward innovation.

In recognition of this situation, JST, as a key institution in the dissemination of science and technology information as well as in the distribution of public funding resources to spark innovation in Japan, will promote open accessibility of academic papers as research results from projects supported by JST funding. This will be done in consideration of the latest trends in the global circulation of science and technology information and the measures taken by research funding agencies abroad, while coordinating with relevant domestic agencies including the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the National Institute of Informatics.

Using the institutional repositories that are promoted by the national policy as a basis, JST will implement this open accessibility only with the explicit consent of the journal the researcher has published in and within the embargo time period of the institutional repository, and will clearly state the above in the application guidelines**. Moreover, it will also be possible to implement open accessibility by publishing papers in open access journals. While respecting the freedom of publication of researchers and making use of the system of institutional repositories, JST aims to make the results of research funded by JST free to view in full on the internet as soon as possible after publication.

While coordinating with the relevant agencies, JST will implement the following measures in relation to making research results freely accessible:

• JST will take steps to reduce the workload on researchers involved in gaining the consent of the journal in which they have published and submitting to the institutional repository.

• As standardization of academic information is important to open accessibility, JST will promote international Digital Object Identifier (DOI) number assignment as well as using the Japan Link Centre.

• Although the repositories of institutions will be used in general, in cases of institutions without one JST will consider setting up and operating its own repository.

Since the JST-managed 'J-STAGE' has an open access function, JST will also be able to prepare a platform of open access journals to academic societies.

** The embargo period is supposed to be less than 1 year, and the paper contents to be made public should be as per the Author's final document and so on.