Requirements for publishing Wellcome Trust-funded research papers

This checklist provides a quick reference guide for researchers on key requirements and other issues to consider when publishing original, peer-reviewed research articles that have resulted in whole or in part from Wellcome Trust funding, and in sharing the data underlying published research findings.

1. Is the paper compliant with the Wellcome Trust's open access policy?
2. Have you acknowledged the funders of the research and referenced the relevant Wellcome Trust grant number(s)?
3. Are the datasets underpinning the paper available for validation and reuse?
4. Does the paper include a clear statement about how the datasets and materials reported in the paper can be accessed?
5. Can identifiers and metrics help assess the impact of your paper and associated datasets?
6. Is your research of potential interest to the public? If so, have you contacted the Trust's Media Office?

Below are some issues to consider in relation to each of these questions, together with links to relevant policies, guidance and further information.

This checklist does not cover scholarly monographs or book chapters. Researchers should note that where such outputs report original Wellcome Trust-funded research they are required to comply with the Trust's open access policy. Please refer to the Monograph and Book Chapter FAQ for further information.

From 1 January 2021 our open access policy is changing. See our open access policy page for details: https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/open-access-policy
We encourage all researchers to maximise opportunities to deposit datasets underlying research papers in recognised community data repositories, where these exist. In fields where such databases are not yet established, we encourage researchers to consider the use of emerging resources, such as Dryad and FigShare.

4. Does the paper include a clear statement about how the datasets and materials reported in the paper may be accessed?

Wherever it is appropriate, all Wellcome Trust-funded publications must include a clear statement about how the data, models and other materials underpinning the publication can be accessed by researchers and other users. Where the data are available in a community repository, relevant accession numbers should be provided. Where data or materials are held locally by the investigator or a managed access process is required, a clear point of contact or web link should be provided.

If the journal does not have a specific requirement or standard format for this information, the statement should be included as part of the methods section of the paper. In any event, the statement should be within the main body of the paper and not within supplementary materials.

In addition, researchers should clearly acknowledge (and cite as appropriate) any datasets or materials generated by other groups that were used in the course of their research. This should be in line with community best practice and abide by the terms of any relevant data access agreements.

5. Can identifiers and metrics help assess the impact of your paper and associated datasets?

The Trust encourages researchers to make full use of available identifiers and metrics, which can assist both researchers and funders in tracking the citation, use and impact of publications and datasets. We recognise that this is an emerging and fast-moving area and that the applicability of some metrics may vary between fields.

In particular, we strongly encourage researchers to:

- Consider signing up for an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), which provides a registry of unique researcher identifiers that can be linked to publications. This can help speed up the grant and manuscripts submission process for researchers.
- Explore emerging mechanisms for assigning permanent digital identifiers to datasets, which enable their use to be cited and tracked.
- Adopt emerging practices for specifying author and contributor roles on published outputs that help to enhance credit and recognition for members of research teams.