



Canadian Association  
for Graduate Studies

301-260 St. Patrick St.  
Ottawa ON K1N 5K5

Association canadienne  
pour les études supérieures

301-260 rue St. Patrick  
Ottawa ON K1N 5K5

CAGS 1962 **50** ACES 2012

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) is the national organization that promotes, advances, and fosters excellence in graduate education and university research. CAGS was formed in 1962 and provides a venue for dialogue and cooperation for its members - 60 Canadian universities as well as other institutions and organizations having an interest in graduate studies.

CAGS membership includes institutions which grant degrees in the full range of academic subjects. CAGS mandate is to support all of these degree granting institutions – and the faculty and students engaged in them.

CAGS supports the move of the Tri-Council towards harmonization of its research dissemination policies. The availability of publicly funded research findings is both appropriate and important - appropriate in that the work funded largely by the public should be widely available and important, as pointed out in the draft policy, because technology has changed the landscape around the way research is conducted and communicated.

CAGS supports the principles outlined in the draft policy meant to guide the Agencies in promoting open access to research publications:

- Committing to academic freedom, and the right to publish;
- Maintaining the high standards and quality of research by committing to academic openness, integrity and ethics;
- Promoting recognized research best practices and standards across disciplines, and embracing and sharing emerging practices and standards;
- Advancing academic research, science and innovation;
- Effective diffusion of research results; and
- Aligning activities, programs and policies between Canadian and international research funding agencies.

CAGS points out that some challenges will exist in a quick move to full open access. This includes the mode in which some academic journals publishing Social Science and Humanities materials continue to operate. It is important that the financial viability of associations and journals be assured during the transition to open access. CAGS does recognize the SSHRC commitment to continuing to fund academic journals under its Aid to Scholarly Publishing Program during the transition.

The proposed Tri Council policy is aimed at ensuring that Canada is prepared to function with full force on the world stage. The success of the policy and its utility will depend on further ensuring that the data deposited must be in formats that are fully accessible and for the long term.

CAGS accepts that there are quantitative and qualitative differences in the data and information involved in the research of different disciplines. CAGS suggests that the CIHR requirement for the deposition of “research data bioinformatics, atomic, and molecular coordinate data into the appropriate public database (e.g. gene sequences deposited in GenBank) immediately upon publication of research results” is appropriate for the referenced areas of inquiry.



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CAGS does not support the extension of such requirements to other science, social science, and humanities-type research datasets as there would be significant challenges to formatting and holding such data within institutional repositories. To require the datasets to be accessible to the general public would make demands on researchers and libraries that could not be met.

CAGS has no issue with the extension of CIHR's other requirement, that *researchers* "retain original data sets for a minimum of five years (or longer if other policies apply)" to these other disciplines/fields and that grant–end reports include information on the repository location of deposited publications and/or the open access status of journal publications.

Submitted by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies/ l'Association canadienne pour les études supérieures

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