Implementing open access in a big general university: a bottom up process

The policy
Sapienza OA policy in a nutshell

- Approved in February 2020, after a **bottom up process**
- **Joint effort** of Sapienza governance, research area, librarian system and university press
- Sapienza **institutional repository** for publications: **IRIS**
- The policy defines: i) who can access IRIS; ii) how to deposit OA publications; iii) how Sapienza supports OA
Sapienza statement about OA

Sapienza favors and places, among its institutional duties, open access to scientific literature to improve its visibility, increase its impact and communicate knowledge and scientific progress to the civil society, ensuring its long-term availability.
Sapienza for the green road

Sapienza promotes the principle of open access according to the **Green road**, through the IRIS repository

link to **Sherpa-Romeo database**
- check publishers’ publication policies
- **informed and correct choice of the version** to be deposited
  (editorial, post-print, pre-print)

Open Access on IRIS based on **Creative Commons 2.0** licenses
Sapienza support services

- Open access **training**
- Review of **editorial agreements** and set up of Addenda
- National coordination in the field of **transformative agreement**
- **OJS** Sapienza platform
- **Financial support** through Sapienza internal call for funding
The bottom-up process
The online surveys

two online surveys (2019):

- **overall academic community**
  *(to assess degree of awareness and acceptance of open access)*
  → **975 respondents**, from phd students to full professors

- **department directors**
  *(to assess the strategic and organisational consequences of OA policy)*
  → **29 respondents**
How familiar are you with open access?

Have you ever published in open access?

Sapienza should have an open access policy?
Awareness & uptake of OA

Why did you publish in open access?

- It is important that everybody could access scientific knowledge: 313 answers (55%)
- In this way my research is more visible and impactful: 277 answers (49%)
- The best publishing option was an open access journal: 272 answers (48%)
- I had funding for open access publications: 98 answers (17%)
- It was a mandatory request from the funding agency: 67 answers (12%)
- Other: 40 answers (5%)
# Awareness & uptake of OA

### Why didn’t you publish in open access?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t want to/couldn’t pay the APC (Article Processing Charges)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The publisher I selected didn’t offer this chance</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t know it was possible</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open access journals are of lower quality</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>51</td>
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</table>

Total responses: 223
Open data

Have you ever released open data about your research results?

Sapienza is currently developing its own data repository according to FAIR principles and within the HRS4R furrow.
Open data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My research activities don’t demand the release of open data</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapienza doesn’t have a repository</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am worried about the consequences on IPR and technology transfer</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>75</td>
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Why didn’t you release your research results in open data? 400 risposte
Conclusion

"Universities have to make a choice" (Paul Ayris)

Sapienza’s policy is a good starting point

This is the right time for Sapienza to make its own choice and try pushing forward.....

Thank you for your attention