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Dear Publisher

The Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF) has recently established an online archive (Organic Eprints, <http://orgprints.org>) with the intention to improve the accessibility of its research products.

As a part of our services to the authors who deposit papers in the archive, we wish to clarify two issues:

- The first issue concerns the self-archiving of *preprints* and journal/publisher *submission policies*. Are there any submission policies in force that restrict the opportunities for getting an online archived preprint refereed and published in a scientific journal?
- The second issue concerns the self-archiving of *postprints* or *reprints* and journal/publisher *copyright policies*. What are the present copyright policies with regard to self-archiving in the Organic Eprints archive?

We would therefore like to inquire what your policy is on these two issues. Our questions and their background are presented in more detail below. Before answering, you may wish to consult the information on publisher policy and open access that is available at <http://www.eprints.org/self-faq/#publishers-do> (with links to further information).

When we have received your answer, we will make your policy known to our users, together with our advice to them concerning self-archiving and future publishing possibilities.

### **Background**

DARCOF has decided to deposit its full production of scientific papers, books, magazine articles, etc. in the Organic Eprints archive. The purpose is twofold: 1) to document the production of papers to those who finance the research and 2) to improve the quality of the research and the papers by improving accessibility and facilitating communication with peers and users.

Even though the archive has been established by a national organization, the archive has an international scope and we hope that other organic research organizations will decide to deposit their research production the archive. At present, we are negotiating with Swiss, German and Swedish organizations on their future use of the archive.

The terminology that we use is as follows. An *eprint* is an electronic document with attached metadata such as bibliographical information, publishing details, and abstract. *Preprints* are the pre-review versions of scientific papers created by the authors, *postprints* are the post-review versions created by the authors and accepted by the editor for publication, and *reprints* are copies of the published versions created by the journal/publisher.

## **Submission policy**

What is your policy on refereeing *preprints* that have been deposited in our archive?

In particular do you as a publisher, or any of the individual journals that you publish, enforce an 'embargo' policy – a policy that, as a rule, excludes online deposited preprints from being considered for publication? (Such policy is sometimes called the "Ingelfinger rule".) If you enforce such a policy, what forms of access to the preprint would you accept?

In our view, depositing a preprint in the archive does not count as prior publishing in the sense relevant for later journal publication. This understanding is analogous to the self-archiving tradition in physics, where a large eprint archive (<http://arxiv.org/>) coexists with the traditional physics journals. The purpose of self-archiving preprints is to facilitate and improve the traditional process of getting comments on preprints by giving them to colleagues. Better means of peer critique and, in our case, user critique of research papers can help improve the quality of submitted and published papers.

## **Copyright policy**

What is your policy on the depositing of 1) *postprints* and 2) *reprints* in our archive? In particular: Do you require an access restriction on postprints? – or on reprints? And if so, do you have a time limit after which you will allow open access?

At present, there are three access levels in the archive: open access to the internet public, access to registered users only, and access to depositor and archive staff only. The last and very strict access level is mainly intended to be used for source-files that are deposited for archival purposes in addition to a more accessible document. The supporters of Organic Eprints want to create a powerful communication tool that provides open access to organic research papers for organic researchers and other actors in the organic movement.

We hope to hear from you soon. If you have not yet decided your policy on one or both issues, please let us know that this is the case, and when we can expect to be informed of your policy.

Kind regards

Hugo Fjelsted Alrøe,  
administrator of the Organic Eprints archive at <http://orgprints.org>