

## Policy Statement: *Medium Ævum* and ‘Open Access’ / ‘Pay-to-

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1. The Society is strongly supportive of increasing the on-line availability of learned research in medieval studies, as is reflected in our own website. However, the Society also shares the concerns of many in the humanities about how the ‘Open Access’ debate has developed in Britain into a ‘Pay-to-Publish’ model.
2. The model being developed is a particularly poor fit for medieval studies for two main reasons:
  - (i) developing public policy assumes parochial, within-UK publication of research while medieval studies tend to be more international in their traditions of publication
  - (ii) the medievalist community has a substantial proportion of active scholars not in-post in British universities and so with difficulties accessing the financial resources to enable them to pay to publish
3. The Society has no intention of allowing an author’s ability to pay for publication to affect its peer-review and decision-making process. Whether an article is the result of Research Council funding is a matter that will be discussed only after its acceptance.
4. The Society will host on-line on its website at the point of publication those articles whose funding source requires ‘gold-route Open Access’, as part of a wider programme of increasing the availability of *Medium Ævum* through the Society website.
5. The Society has no intention of levying any Author Processing Charge on any scholar. Instead, the Society will engage with the author to ensure the profile of their article is as high as possible.
6. The Society’s policy is to hold the copyright to all material published in *Medium Ævum*. The intention of this is to give the Society responsibility for protecting their authors’ rights in matters of re-use and re-publication by third parties. Self-re-publication is supported and it is the Society’s established policy to respond positively to an author’s request to archive their article on their institution’s e-repository, as long as a copyright is acknowledged and a link provided to the Society’s own site. The Society intends to continue this policy.
7. In addition, the Society will work with authors who do not self-archive but who are required to publish according to ‘green-route Open Access’ to ensure they can meet those requirements. The present default position is that the article will be hosted on the Society’s website 24 months from date of publication.

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