

# Quiet Exclusion in Open Repositories

## A Documented Case of Automated Restriction and Non-Response

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### Abstract

Scientific exclusion is typically understood as explicit rejection, but can also occur without any formal decision. This paper presents a documented case of account restriction on Zenodo, followed by prolonged non-response.

The case illustrates a process-level failure in which participation is initially allowed, then interrupted without explanation or recovery pathway. No rejection is issued, yet access is effectively terminated.

This configuration aligns with the concept of quiet exclusion, defined as interaction without progression or completion. The case provides concrete evidence of how automated classification and support non-response can jointly produce exclusion without explicit decision in open scientific systems. Full documentation of the case is provided in Appendix A.

### Access is Not a Single Gate

Scientific access is not a single gate, but a process unfolding across multiple stages. Participation may be constrained before any formal scientific decision is reached.

Here, access is defined as a process composed of four necessary components:

$$\text{Access} = \text{Entry} \times \text{Progression} \times \text{Completion} \times \text{Persistence}$$

When any component fails, access collapses even without explicit rejection.

### Case Description: Zenodo Account Restriction

An independent researcher uploaded multiple structured research documents to Zenodo over a period of several weeks. Following this activity:

- the account was automatically flagged for spam,
- all uploaded content was removed,
- the account was blocked,
- no detailed justification was provided.

A request for clarification was submitted on the day of the restriction. A follow-up message was sent several weeks later. No response has been received after approximately 10 weeks.

The uploaded materials included versioned research documents with titles, abstracts, and identifiers. Prior dissemination had occurred, with approximately 4,000 downloads across platforms.

## Observed Mechanism

The restriction was triggered through automated classification. Platform documentation indicates that:

- automated systems may classify content as spam,
- institutional email addresses are used as legitimacy signals,
- misclassification can occur (see Appendix A, Figure 1).

Correction depends on manual review following user contact. In this case, no response was received.

## Conclusion

This case demonstrates that exclusion in open scientific systems does not require explicit rejection. Access may be granted, sustained, and then revoked through automated classification, without explanation or recovery pathway. When correction mechanisms depend on non-responsive channels, false positives may stabilize into persistent exclusion states. This configuration represents a concrete instance of quiet exclusion: interaction without completion.

## Implications for Open Scientific Infrastructures

This case highlights a structural vulnerability in open scientific platforms, where access can be interrupted without a corresponding mechanism for clarification or recovery.

The absence of explicit rejection, combined with automated classification and non-responsive support channels, creates conditions in which participation appears formally possible yet effectively terminated.

This suggests that access in open systems should be evaluated not only in terms of entry conditions, but also in terms of progression and recoverability following disruption.

## Appendix A. Zenodo Account Restriction – Documented Case

### Introduction

This document presents a structured account of an access restriction applied to a Zenodo account, including associated content removal and subsequent attempts to obtain clarification. The objective is to document the sequence of events, preserve the content of exchanges, and determine whether a clear rationale or identifiable decision point was communicated during the process.

All personal identifiers have been removed from correspondence, except for the author, in order to maintain both accuracy and readability while preserving anonymity where appropriate. The document is limited to factual elements, including dated communications and observed response patterns. No interpretation is introduced within the email records themselves; contextual elements are presented separately.

The case is presented as a standalone example of interaction with a scientific infrastructure, without attribution of intent. It aims to clarify whether the absence of resolution reflects a defined policy, a procedural limitation, or an undocumented filtering outcome.

### Context

The uploads are part of an independent research corpus focused on joy mechanisms and evaluative load (Z framework).

### Case

**Author:** Florian Morin (Independent Researcher)

**Date:** May 1, 2026

## **Timeline**

- December 2025 – Initial uploads
- January 2026 – Additional uploads
- February 20, 2026 – Account restriction, support contacted
- May 2026 (+10 weeks) – No response received

## **Nature of Uploaded Content**

Structured research documents including titles, abstracts, references, and versioned entries.

## **Dissemination Status**

- Prior dissemination confirmed
- Approx. total downloads: thousands of downloads
- Informal academic discussions reported

## **Observed Outcome**

- Account blocked
- Content removed
- Reason: Spam
- No detailed justification provided

## **Potential Misclassification**

The upload pattern may resemble automated or bulk submission behavior.

## Overlap between automated filtering heuristics and legitimate research workflows

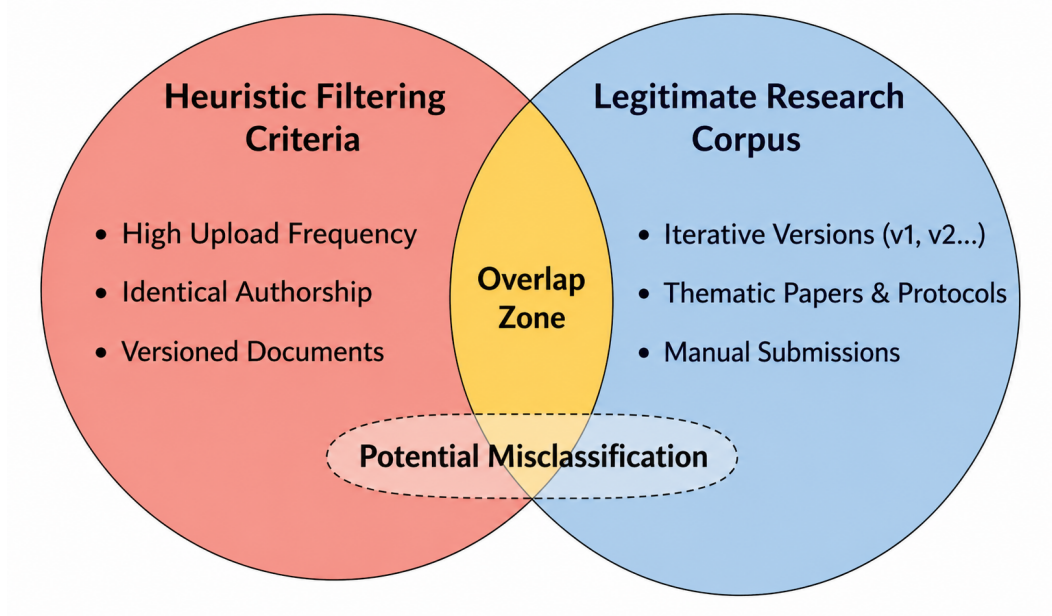


Figure 1: Overlap between automated filtering heuristics and legitimate research workflows.

## Platform FAQ Statements

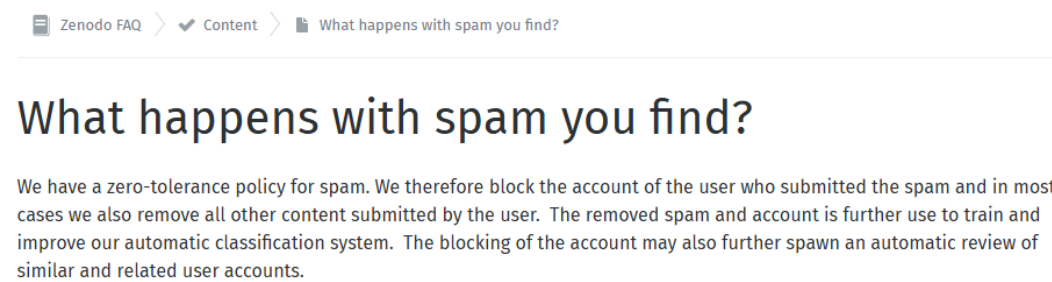


Figure 2: Zenodo FAQ – spam policy and error handling. "We have a zero-tolerance policy for spam."

## What can I do to avoid spam detection?

Everything you post or submit on Zenodo is subject to automated and/or manual review by our automated spam classification system. The system is dealing with large volumes of submissions on a daily basis, and while we strive to make it as accurate as possible, the system may occasionally make mistakes. The following is some of the actions you can take to ensure the spam classification system has enough information to determine your upload is ham.

### 1. Register with an institutional email address (avoid generic mail providers)

We encourage you to register with an institutional email address (e.g. provided by a university). If you already registered with another email address you can change your email address. We have very little spam from users having an institutional email address, and thus an institutional email address is a strong indicator that a submission is not spam. On the other hand, we have significant amount of spam coming from users using generic mail providers like gmail, outlook, yahoo and others. For help on how to create an account or change email address see:

- <https://help.zenodo.org/docs/get-started/create-an-account/>
- <https://help.zenodo.org/docs/profile/editing-your-profile/#edit>

Figure 3: Zenodo FAQ - email and spam detection criteria. "We encourage you to register with an institutional email address (e.g. provided by a university)."

These excerpts describe automated moderation rules, classification heuristics, and the possibility of classification errors.

## Correspondence

### Email – Follow-up on Unresolved Account Issue

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**From:** Author (Independent Researcher)

**To:** Zenodo Staff Member A

Hello,

I am following up on my previous message regarding my Zenodo account.

I still have access to the support channel, but I have not received any response. Could you please confirm the current status of the account and whether any action is being taken?

For reference:

- Date of first message: February 20, 2026
- Issue: account restriction affecting an independent researcher, with associated content removal and no response from support

Best regards,  
Florian Morin

### Email – Request for Clarification (Zenodo Account Status)

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**From:** Author (Independent Researcher)

**To:** Zenodo Staff Member B

Hello,

My Zenodo account appears to have been restricted on February 20, with associated content removal. I contacted support the same day but have not received a response after several weeks.

Could you please clarify the status of the account or indicate whether further information is needed? Additional context (timeline) is provided in an attached document.

Best regards,  
Florian Morin

No responses have been received after approximately 10 weeks.

## Observed Pattern

The sequence of events described above exhibits a consistent structural pattern:

- No explicit reason for the account restriction is provided beyond a general classification (“spam”)
- No identifiable decision point or resolution stage is observed in the interaction
- The communication channel remains technically available throughout the process
- No progression toward clarification, correction, or restoration is achieved despite repeated contact attempts

## List of Uploads (Partial Reconstruction)

Title	Date	Identifier
Transient Suppression of ACC Monitoring Enables High-Saliency Positive Affect	24/12/2025	Record: <a href="https://zenodo.org/records/18048516">https://zenodo.org/records/18048516</a>
Affective Collapse Under Causal Closure	Jan 2026	DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18537408
Ease: Evaluation kills entry, not the state: a threshold model of ease	Jan 2026	DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18224573
Regime-Preserving Methods for Studying Children’s Engagement	Jan 2026	DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18235196
Ease Open-State Questionnaire (EOSQ, Draft)	Feb 2026	DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18654831
Lock-in under suspended optimization	Jan 2026	Not available
Positive Affect Contingent On Suspended Optimization	Jan 2026	Not available
Positive Affect as Suspension of Optimization	Jan 2026	Not available

*Some entries are referenced via record URLs rather than DOIs due to limited access following account restriction.*

## Secondary Case (Independent Replication)

A second independent researcher reported a comparable sequence of events on Zenodo.

The account was reportedly blocked without manual review following the dissemination of theoretical research, despite an established audience of more than 5,000 downloads. The researcher indicated that the restriction required migration of their academic portfolio to alternative platforms in order to preserve accessibility.

The individual also confirmed that documentation and timeline records are available, suggesting that the reported sequence can be independently examined under appropriate confidentiality conditions.

## Verification Constraints

Independent verification of removed content is limited by platform-level constraints. In particular, archived versions of repository records, including snapshots preserved through web archiving services, may become inaccessible or unavailable after content removal or restriction.

This creates a documentation problem: the exact state of a record before restriction cannot always be independently reconstructed from public links alone. As a result, the absence of an accessible archived record should not be treated as evidence that the record did not exist, but as a possible consequence of the same access disruption being examined.

## Key Convergences

The two cases exhibit several shared structural features:

- Automated classification without evidence of manual review
- Account restriction affecting already disseminated research content
- Loss of access requiring migration to alternative platforms
- Presence of substantial prior engagement (e.g., thousands of downloads)

## Interpretation

The presence of a second independent case exhibiting similar structural features reduces the likelihood that the observed outcome is idiosyncratic. Instead, it supports the existence of a recurrent interaction pattern between dissemination behavior and automated moderation systems.

Notably, both cases involve independent theoretical research with significant prior dissemination, suggesting a potential overlap between legitimate research workflows and automated spam detection heuristics.

## Verification Constraints

Independent verification of removed content is limited by platform-level constraints. In this case, attempts to preserve records via web archiving services were unsuccessful, as archived snapshots could not be reliably accessed following content restriction.

Supporting evidence (Appendix A, Figure 4) indicates that access to archived versions may be restricted or unavailable, further limiting the ability to reconstruct the state of the record prior to removal.

This creates a documentation limitation: the absence of an accessible archived record does not necessarily indicate that the original content did not exist, but may reflect constraints affecting both primary and secondary access pathways.

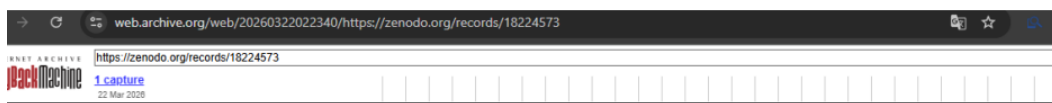


Figure 4: Attempt to access an archived version of a restricted record via a web archiving service. The snapshot is unavailable or blocked.

Attempts to access archived versions of restricted records via web archiving services may not reliably succeed. In the present case, an archived snapshot of a Zenodo record returned a 403 Forbidden response, indicating that access remained restricted despite the existence of an archived link.

This suggests that external archiving does not necessarily ensure recoverability of removed or restricted content, further limiting independent verification.

This limitation affects both primary access (original record) and secondary access pathways (archived versions), reducing the overall persistence of the record.

## Notes

This document is a factual record and does not attribute intent or error. The author declares no competing interests.