



# Why European universities and funding agencies are committing to open access

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# THE ONE-PAGE ANSWER

- For universities, open access provides more publicity for the research conducted at the institution and higher citation of research papers.
- For research funding agencies, open access provides greater use and exploitation of the research they fund, facilitating further research.
- For university staff, open access provides increased readership and more citations, as academic content on open web-sites is read more widely than content on closed web-sites.
- For users of university libraries, open access provides access to research publications without barriers imposed by subscription or access-prevention technology.
- For governments, open access provides greater returns from investment in the funding of research as research publications are used more widely. This contributes to the public's understanding of science and encourages taxpayers to support more funding of universities.

# FACTORS LEADING TO CONSIDERATION OF OPEN ACCESS

- The high cost of journals was the catalyst but not the underlying factor leading to interest in open access
- More important have been the changes in scientific research following the development of electronic networks and computing
- Changes in the way research is undertaken led to consideration of the way research is published: could the new technology bring benefits to the dissemination of research?
- Also important has been concern about the structural fault in research dissemination: researchers have left dissemination to publishers, who have been following their own interests
- So open access is seen not just as a new business model but part of a new way of meeting research and teaching needs, treating dissemination as integral to research and using the opportunities provided by new technology (e.g. to incorporate research data with text)
- Researchers and their funders want to share their research results as widely as possible

# FACTORS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AND FUNDING AGENCIES SEE AS BEING IMPORTANT

- Maintaining quality of research publication
- Present system of peer review and impact factor ratings seen as necessary until a better system is devised
- Universities want a system that meets their institutional needs while funding agencies and authors often want a subject approach: repositories need to meet both requirements
- Also a wish to respect both university needs and author rights in copyright: licensing seen as a better way than copyright transfer
- No wish to destroy existing journals, only to introduce some competition into the market

# HOW EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AND FUNDING AGENCIES ARE SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS

- Support for both strategies identified in Budapest Open Access Initiative: deposit of journal articles in repositories and journals on new business model allowing free access
- The two strategies are given different priority in different countries and by different institutions
- Many European funding agencies and universities have set up repositories as part of their web-sites and either require or strongly encourage their authors to deposit pre-prints or post-prints in the repository
- Publication in open access journals is supported and recommended to authors as an alternative to subscription-based journals
- The recommendations to authors are generally expressed in a policy document

# BENEFITS FROM REPOSITORIES FOR UNIVERSITIES

- For universities repositories provide a permanent record of their achievements in research and teaching
- University repositories contain pre-prints or post-prints of journal articles, electronic teaching packages, doctoral theses and dissertations, internal reports and committee papers
- Placing all these types of research and teaching output in a repository enables people inside and outside the university to discover work that the university has undertaken
- New students are attracted to the university when they see in the repository the good research and teaching at the university
- Use of repository content leads to higher citations and higher prestige <http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~harnad/Temp/self-ariadne.ppt#1>
- Administrative tasks – e.g. compiling a list of journal articles written by academic staff – are made easier

# BENEFITS FROM REPOSITORIES FOR FUNDING AGENCIES

- A permanent record of the research they have funded
- Adds value to the research they have funded by enabling higher use of the research results
- Demonstrates accountability for funds supplied by donors or taxpayers
- Helps to attract further high-quality research proposals
- Assists administrative tasks, e.g. discovering whether research has already been undertaken in an area for which a new proposal has been received
- Enables access to related research : funding agencies tend to prefer subject-based repositories like PubMed Central rather than institutional repositories, although content can be shared between subject and institutional repositories

# BENEFITS FROM SUPPORT FOR OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS



- Open access journals provide users with accessibility as well as access – i.e. an organized collection of articles with established indexing and retrieval methods
- The academic community is familiar with and comfortable with the journal structure rather than the individual article approach of deposit in a repository
- Open access journals can fit into the traditional impact factor measurement with which funding authorities are familiar
- Open access journals demonstrate the priority that should be given to intellectual value rather than financial value because they are free at the point of use
- Open access journals are brothers and sisters of subject repositories

# HOW EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES AND FUNDING AGENCIES ARE EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT FOR OPEN ACCESS

- By signing the Berlin Declaration

<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

- By adapting the Berlin Declaration to their own situation – e.g. the Messina Declaration signed by the Rectors of Italian universities

<http://www.aepic.it/conf/viewappendix.php?id=49&ap=1&cf=1>

- By issuing press releases
- By adopting policy statements and publishing guidelines approved by their governing bodies
- By setting up internal structures with funding to manage repository development as part of their information services
- By funding projects to explore some of the un-answered questions

# A UK EXAMPLE : HOW JISC IS SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS

- By providing several million GB pounds of funding for repository development through the FAIR Programme  
[www.jisc.ac.uk/programme\\_fair.html](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/programme_fair.html) - fourteen projects 2002 – 2005 – and the new Digital Repositories Programme just starting  
[http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme\\_digital\\_repositories](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/index.cfm?name=programme_digital_repositories)
- National deal for any UK author to submit to BioMed Central open access journals
- March 2004-February 2005 four publishers funded to cover OA publication-charges, each with different business model
- Aim to ease the transition from subscription to open access for publishers willing to trial OA
- In second round of funding five grants made to publishers and more publishers will be invited to bid for 2006-07
- Various surveys and studies funded in order to understand the complex environment better and to assist the process of change
- Working with other bodies in UK – e.g. Wellcome Trust – and abroad – e.g. SURF in the Netherlands



***Thank you for listening!***

- I will be happy to answer questions now or by e-mail to [f.friend@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.friend@ucl.ac.uk)
- The most comprehensive web-site with information on open access developments is [www.soros.org/openaccess](http://www.soros.org/openaccess) - the Budapest Open Access Initiative web-site
- Also useful is the SPARC web-site [www.arl.org/sparc](http://www.arl.org/sparc) with a link to the SPARC Europe web-site [www.sparceurope.org](http://www.sparceurope.org) , which in turn links to several university repositories
- The Berlin Declaration web-site is the main focus for European activity <http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>
- A list of open access journals is available at [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)
- The JISC web-site is [www.jisc.ac.uk](http://www.jisc.ac.uk) and open access initiatives are scattered throughout that web-site
- A list of publisher copyright agreements allowing “self-archiving” is at [www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php)
- You can join the SPARC Open Access Forum by sending any message to [SPARC-OAForum-feed@arl.org](mailto:SPARC-OAForum-feed@arl.org) from the address that you would like to be subscribed