

Access to scientific information, the European perspective

**NEEO Conference - Subject Repositories
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EC Fundamentals

- **Importance of access, dissemination and preservation for research and innovation: build on former research, avoid duplication**
- **The internet has led to unprecedented possibilities which can be better exploited**
- **Need to improve return on investment in R&D, and thus maximise socioeconomic impact**
- **Enhance access to results funded by taxpayers' money**
- **International trend towards OA policies**
- **Important contributions from scientific publishers**
- **Fair remuneration for scientific publishers for the added value they bring to the scientific publication process**



Stakeholders' views

- **Views still remain polarised**
- **Publishers:**
 - **defend crucial contribution to dissemination of SI.**
 - **their investments allowed greater access and new services**
 - **No to “parasite” services**
- **Research Community & Libraries:**
 - **access problems remain**
 - **support alternative new ways to traditional subscription model**
 - **advocate that wider benefits can be achieved**
 - **publicly funded research results should be made available to all**
- **Agreement on the importance of wide dissemination of SI**
- **Disagreement way of achieving it**



Recent developments

- **Number of OA journals** is on the rise: Recent 2009 figures. DOAJ: 4535 (20% increase)
- **OA Journals** increasingly good ISI figures (e.g. PLoS, BioMedCentral, etc)
- **OA Repositories:** Open DOAR: 1558 (25% increase)
- **Self archiving Mandates.** No shortage of mandates. Currently 178 mandates in place (198% increase)
- **PubmedCentral-** 2.4 million items free for access
- **Big Deals on the rise;** Learned Societies presses squeezed out ?



Recent developments (2)

- Traditional publishers increasingly experimenting with OA (low uptake so far)
- Self Archiving allowed to a certain degree by most publishers
- NIH Mandate. Compliance rate increasing (60%). Who deposits ?
- In general compliance rate in self archiving well below this figure ? Why ? RFOs and researchers committed to OA ?
- OSTP Proposal by the US government . NIH approach to other US Federal Agencies
- US Scholarly Publishing Roundtable OA recommendations
- EU HLG on Digital Libraries recommendations



Institutional Repositories

- **Objective:**
 - **Repositories to become systematic efficient and reliable vehicle for facilitating access and making SI available**
- **However:**
 - **Repositories have become a must for Universities/ Research Institutions (1500 Worldwide)**
 - **Sustainability of Repositories. Available content, very very poor figures. And for data ? See ROAR**
 - **Impact/metrics /evaluation on their use and its value for money ?**
 - **Quality issues : DINI Certificate, DRAMBORA, DSA. Standardisation ?**
 - **Metadata, authenticity and data integrity ?**
 - **Preservation concerns. Who pays ?**



Roles of European Commission

- Policy-making body: launch of policy debate at the EU level; encourage MS to take coordinated action
- Research funding body: set access and dissemination rules for EC-funded research (FP)
- Capacity-building / supporting body: fund digital infrastructure and relevant research and networking activities (e.g. NEEO)



EC ACTIONS

- European Research Council (ERC): “Ideas” Programme in FP7. Open Access Mandate Pilot
- Reimbursement of publication costs in FP7 “Gold” open access
- e-Infrastructure for FP7 pilot and ERC Guidelines



Conclusion

- **Steady progress over the past years**
- **Access issues are now firmly on the European policy agenda**
- **European policy: mobilisation of MS and stakeholders, support for coordinated initiatives**
- **WIN-WIN model envisaged. Scientific publishers and Research/Library community must agree solutions**
- **Research funding body policy: monitoring of ongoing initiatives(OA Pilot)**
- **Capacity-building activities: continuing support for the development of sustainable e-infrastructures in all MS**



Many thanks

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm

