

## Nobel prize winners join calls to open research to all

More than 12,000 academics including two Nobel laureates have signed a petition urging the European commission to make publicly funded academic research available for free on the internet.

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A year ago the EC published an independent report showing the price of scientific journals rose 200-300% beyond inflation between 1975 and 1995. The market, the study said, was worth up to \$11bn (£5.6bn) a year.

The report recommended that the European Union should follow the lead of many research funders, both public and private, in making articles in scholarly journals published by the EU be available for free access shortly after publication.

Russell, head of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, says: "Even open access lobbyists agree that author archiving will cause subscription cancellations and journals to go out of business."

## Open access and the price of knowledge

There are some things which are so self-evidently right and good that it's hard to imagine how anyone could disagree with you. The "open access" academic journal movement is one of those things. It is a no-brainer.

excerpt from  
Goldacre  
10, 2007  
The Guardian

# What is going on?

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Budapest Open Access  
Initiative

## Reason for researchers

Pressure is growing for academic publishers to put the fruits of publicly funded labour on the web

"Ours is the best of businesses: we get our raw material for free and our customers pay us a year in advance," joked the publisher of an academic journal to a university researcher.

Perhaps not for much longer. Momentum is growing for publicly funded published academic research to be available free on the internet. So-called "open access" would mean anyone could view an article in a scholarly journal shortly after it was published.

Susan Hazel  
London Mathematical  
journals, says: "If all publicly  
funded published research was  
made available free on the inter-  
net, publishers would all go bust  
and no one would manage the  
peer review,

excerpt from  
Jessica Shepherd  
Tuesday February 13, 2007  
The Guardian