

Your role

Funding agencies around the world are recognising the importance of Open Access and introducing policies to bring the benefits of Open Access to the research they fund. A list of research funders policies on Open Access is available from

www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/

The recent EC study of scientific publication markets in Europe* recommends the development of a European policy mandating open access to EC-funded research. In addition, it recommends an exploration of interoperability issues and how open access repositories can be implemented Europe-wide.

“...there is a central role for research funding bodies in Europe in the shaping of new models for publishing and communicating research results.”*

To support Open Access and the work of DRIVER we urge research funding bodies:

- to mandate, as a requirement of their funding, open access to published articles
- encourage the development of institutional repositories across Europe

* “Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe”
Commissioned by DG-Research, European Commission.
January 2006. Pages 11, 70

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Introduction

The current system of academic publication developed as a means to disseminate the findings of research. However, this system can hamper the very process it was set up to serve, with access to articles being limited by publishers to only those who can afford to subscribe.

What is Open Access?

“Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge.”

Peter Suber*

What are Institutional Repositories?

Authors deposit copies of their finished articles in open access repositories that are maintained by their research institution. These copies are in addition to publishing in research journals. Permission to archive is subject to copyright. Full-text articles held in repositories are thus available to anyone via search services such as Google, Yahoo and others, as well as via specialised search services such as the BASE search engine (www.base-search.net/)

Further details: www.driver-support.eu

*www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm

Benefits for Research of Institutional Repositories

Published material which is Open Access can be freely accessed by anyone in the world via an internet connection. This meets the demand of research funders for research impact and hence, value for money as well as meeting the needs of authors for increased citations. Peer-review is unaffected.

Much scholarly research is publicly funded; it follows therefore that the results of this research should be available to the public. At present this publicly funded research is locked behind subscription barriers. OA repositories provide public access to this research.

It is important to distinguish between OA institutional repositories and OA journals. OA journals simply use a different business model to traditional journals. While OA journals compete with established subscription based journals, institutional repositories provide a means whereby the traditional publishing model can co-exist with Open Access. There is no evidence that OA repositories decrease journal subscriptions. Therefore Open Access repositories can meet the needs of authors, research funders and their readers.

For further details please visit:
www.driver-support.eu

DRIVER

*Digital Repository Infrastructure
Vision for European Research*

This is an EU-funded 18 month project which sets out to build a testbed for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. DRIVER, with ten European partners, aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various user groups.

Objectives:

- To organise and build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Belgium
- To assess and implement state-of-the-art technology, which manages the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource
- To assess and implement a number of fundamental user services
- To identify, implement and promote a relevant set of standards
- To prepare for the future expansion and upgrade of the digital repository infrastructure across Europe and to ensure widest possible involvement and exploitation by users

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