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Access to scientific information in the digital age: European Commission initiatives

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3rd Conference on Open Access

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Outline

- 1. European Commission approach**
- 2. European policy development**
- 3. Open access initiatives**
- 4. Conclusions and next steps**





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EC approach (1)

- **Importance of access, dissemination and preservation for research: build on former research, avoid duplication**
- **The internet has led to unprecedented possibilities which are not yet sufficiently exploited**
- **Need to improve return on investment in R&D, and thus maximise socioeconomic impact**
- **A question of principle: reliable access to results funded by taxpayers' money**
- **International developments: many existing policies, e. g. Wellcome Trust, NIH, Harvard University, etc.**
- **Fair remuneration for scientific publishers for the added value they bring to the scientific publication process**





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EC approach (2)

Evolving legal foundations

Current: European Community Treaty, Title XVIII (Research & Technological Development)

- Art. 163: “The Community shall have the objective of strengthening the scientific and technological bases of Community industry and encouraging it to become more competitive [...]”.
- Art. 164: In pursuing these objectives, the European Community is responsible for “dissemination and optimisation of the results and activities in Community research [...]”.

Future: Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (Lisbon Treaty) Title XIX (Research & Technological Development and space)

- Art. 179 (ex Art. 163): The Union shall have the objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases **by achieving a European research area in which researchers, scientific knowledge and technology circulate freely**, and encouraging it to become more competitive [...]”.



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EC approach (3)

Implementing the Treaty: the Lisbon Agenda

- Lisbon Agenda: EU “to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world”
- 2005 “relaunch”: focus on actions to promote growth and jobs
 - European Research Area (ERA) (2000): “Internal market” for research: free movement of researchers, technology, and knowledge; part of the new Treaty to be ratified
 - i2010 (2005): a European Information Society for growth and employment - create single information space, strengthen ICT innovation, achieve better inclusion and public services through ICT

→ main pillars of EC scientific information policy



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EC approach (4)

Roles of European Commission

- **Policy-making body: launch of policy debate at the European level; encourage Member States to take coordinated action**
- **Research funding body: set access and dissemination rules for EC-funded research (Framework Programmes)**
- **Capacity-building / supporting body: fund digital infrastructure and relevant research and networking activities**





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European policy development (1)

Consultation

- 2006 - “Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe” (public consultation)
- 2007 (15-16 Feb.) - Stakeholder conference “Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area”; Petition & Brussels Declaration
- 2007 (4 April) - Green Paper on the future of the European Research Area; knowledge sharing axis included section on open access (public questionnaire)





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European policy development (2)

Decision-making

- 2007 (14 Feb.) - Communication COM(2007)56 on “Scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation”
- 2007 (23 Nov.) - Council Conclusions on Scientific Information in the Digital Age
- 2008 (13-14 March) - European Council Conclusions mention open access as a way of achieving “fifth freedom” (free movement of knowledge) within European knowledge economy
- 2008 (10 April) - Commission Recommendation on the management of IP in knowledge transfer activities (COM(2008)1329)





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European policy development (3)

Implementation phase

- **2007 (Dec.) – European Research Council’s Scientific Council adopts Guidelines for Open Access**
- **2008 (Aug.): Launch of Open Access Pilot in FP7**
- **Starting 2009: follow-up of Member State actions**





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Open access initiatives (1)

Context: Framework Programme (FP) for Research and Technological Development

- **Current Framework Programme: FP7 “7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development”**
 - **Duration: Seven-year programme, 2007 to 2013**
 - **Budget: over €50 billion**
 - **In its role as funding body, the Commission can set rules for access to research results financed through Framework Programmes**
- **Goal of maximising socio-economic impact of R&D investment**





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Open access initiatives (2)

European Research Council (ERC): "Ideas" Programme in FP7

- December 2007 Guidelines on open access to ERC funded research results:
 - *Peer reviewed scientific articles*: deposited on publication to an appropriate repository and available open access no later than 6 months after publication
 - *Research data*: consider it essential that underlying data be deposited to relevant databases as soon as possible, preferably immediately and no later than 6 months after publication
- Preference for "green" open access; "gold" open access also possible
- Guidelines apply during and after project duration
- Planned modification of grant agreement to ensure that open access becomes a legal requirement (2009)





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Open access initiatives (3)

Reimbursement of publication costs in FP7 “Gold” open access

- New in FP7
- Publication costs (including gold/reader pays open access fees) are eligible for reimbursement
- Limited to duration of project
- Uptake to be monitored during and at the end of FP7
- Legal reference: II.16.4 of FP7 Model Grant Agreement permits 100% reimbursement for “other activities” including open access publication



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Open access initiatives (4)

Open Access Pilot in FP7: scope

- Launched Aug '08; covers ca. 20 % of FP7 budget
- Based on self-archiving (green open access)
- Applies to seven areas of the 7th Framework Programme:
 - 6 month embargo: "Health", "Energy", "Environment", "Information & Communication Technology" (Cognitive systems/robotics), "Research infrastructures" (e-infrastructures)
 - 12 month embargo: "Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities" and "Science in Society"





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Open access initiatives (5)

Open Access Pilot in FP7: requirements

- **Special Clause 39 of the Grant Agreement requires:**
 - deposit of an electronic copy (published version or final manuscript) in an institutional or subject-based repository at moment of publication.
 - best efforts to ensure that this electronic copy becomes available "open access" (freely and electronically available to anyone):
 - immediately if the publication is published "open access", or
 - within 6 or 12 months of publication, depending on area
- **Applies to all new FP7 grant agreements signed after August 2008 in concerned areas**





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Open access initiatives (6)

e-Infrastructure for FP7 pilot and ERC Guidelines

INFRA-2009-1.2.3: Scientific Information Repository supporting the European FP7 Research Programme

- Call for proposals published on 9 Dec. 2008, deadline 17 March 2009, budget: € 4 million
- Seeks projects to support the establishment and operation of a technical infrastructure of digital repositories to deposit and access scientific articles and data produced under FP7 (incl. ERC)
- Infrastructure to build on existing work on repositories
- Expected impact: Enhancement of access to scientific information produced in the context of FP7; linking of many different repositories as a service and e-infrastructure
- Information day: December 16th 2008, Brussels

Information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=190



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Open access initiatives (7)

Funding of studies on access to scientific information/open access (e-Infrastructures, Science in Society, eContentPlus)

Current:

- DRIVER II – Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research (builds on DRIVER I)
- OAPEN - Open Access Publishing in European Networks
- PEER - Pilot Programme Investigating the effect of deposit of author manuscripts on publishing

From 2009:

- SOAP: Study on different types and future of open access publishing (gold open access)
- NECOBELAC, EUROCANCERCOMS: Projects focusing on networking, knowledge-sharing and training on access to and dissemination of scientific information

→ Input for FP8 policy





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Open access initiatives (8)

Planned call for proposals: Open access to scientific information (CIP-ICT PSP-2009-3)

- Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP); ICT Policy Support Programme (PSP) - former eContentPlus
- Draft ICT PSP Work Programme 2009 published Dec. 2008
- Theme 2: Digital libraries (€ 25 mil.); Objective 2.4: Open Access to scientific information
- Actions sought: experiments with open access, including exploring new paradigms for peer reviewing, querying, and linking scientific content with related datasets
- Expected impact: open access to more scientific content and develop new ways to review, render, query and link scientific content
- Publication: Feb. 2009; closure: June 2009
- Info day: 26 January 2009, Brussels

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



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Conclusions and next steps (1)

Steady progress over the past years:

Consultation and decision-making phases completed

Implementation phase well under way

→ **Access issues are now firmly on the European policy agenda**

→ **A lot of work ahead ...**





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Conclusions and next steps (2)

The challenges ahead

- **European policy: mobilisation of Member States; support for coordinated initiatives**
- **Research funding body policy: monitoring of ongoing initiatives; towards an access and dissemination policy for the 8th Framework Programme (from 2014)**
- **Capacity-building activities: continuing support for the development of sustainable e-infrastructure in all Member States**





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Thank you for your attention!

Contact: celina.ramjoue@ec.europa.eu

Further information:

Access to scientific information:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/scientific_information

Open access pilot in FP7:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/open_access

Questions about the open access pilot:

rtd-open-access@ec.europa.eu

Other questions/join mailing list on access to scientific information:

rtd-scientific-publication@ec.europa.eu

