

On-line survey on scientific information in the digital age

1. Respondent

1.1 I am replying as /on behalf of a(n) (if you represent more than one category, please choose the most relevant one):	International organisation
1.2 Please provide your name (will be published):	
Prof. Dr. Rainer Kuhlen, Dr. Karin Ludewig, Michaela Voigt	
1.3 Please provide your e-mail address (will not be published):	
info@ences.eu	
1.4 Please provide the name of your organisation (if you are responding as a citizen, enter "citizen"):	
Karin Ludewig <karin.ludewig@ibi.hu-berlin.de>	
1.5 Please provide your country of residence / establishment:	Germany

2. What role for Europe?

2.1 There are already many developments regarding access to and preservation of scientific information in Europe, at governmental, funding body and institutional level. For some years, the European Union has also been developing policies in these areas.

In your opinion, in what specific areas can and should the European Union best contribute to improving the circulation of knowledge, and specifically access to and preservation of scientific information (including both publications and data)?

Policy formulation at European level on access and preservation issues	agree strongly
Co-ordinating existing initiatives in EU Member States	agree strongly
Supporting the development of a European network of repositories (online archives)	agree strongly
Encourage universities, libraries, funding bodies, etc., to implement specific actions	agree strongly

2.2 Comments

In the area of the copyright aquis support from the EU legislator is needed - the European Union should improve the situation for open access (OA) to and preservation of scientific information by providing a legal framework that enables as well as obliges Member States to make laws which support digitisation, OA and preservation of scholarly knowledge.

3. Access to digital scientific information (including open access): scientific publications

3.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "there is NO problem with access to scientific publications in Europe"?	disagree
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3.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to access to scientific publications?

Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to scientific publications	important
High prices of articles/journal subscriptions	very important
Limited or reduced library budgets	very important
Different Value Added Tax (VAT) rates for online media and printed material	not very important
Lack of awareness and interest within the research community on access and open access	important
No incentive system in place encouraging and rewarding practices that enhance access	very important

3.3 Comments

A very important barrier is the insufficiency of international strategies/policies on access to scientific publications. We mainly think of the EU's copyright acquis. For one thing, EU wants to foster & enhance OA to scientific knowledge in order to make ERA profit from the developments of modern information society, but all attempts to modernize the copyright acquis seem to fail.

3.4 Do you think that publications resulting from publicly funded research should, as a matter of principle, be available free of charge to readers on the internet (i.e. open access mode)?	agree strongly
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3.5 Do you think that open access can increase access to and dissemination of scientific publications?	agree strongly
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3.6 Do you think that open access to scientific publications can co-exist with the traditional scientific publication system?	agree strongly
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3.7 Open access to scientific publications can be achieved in different ways, in particular through researchers self-archiving in repositories ("green open access") and through publication in open access journals for a fee ("gold open access").

Which of the following different modes should public research policy facilitate in order to increase the number and share of scientific publications available in open access? Please rate the following options from 1 to 4 (1 = first choice; 4 = last choice):

Open access publishing (author-pays model/"gold open access")	1
Self-archiving ("green open access")	3
A combination of self-archiving and open access publishing	2

Funded conversion of traditional subscription-based journals to open access journals	4
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3.8 Comments

All suggested ways are good and should be explored. The author pays model will only work if scientific authors are financially supported by the institutions of research they work for. Costs which the libraries don't spend on subscription of traditional journals should be given as publication grants to authors who want to publish OA.

3.9 In the case of self-archiving ("green open access"), what embargo period (period of time during which publication is not yet open access) is desirable?

18 months	agree
12 months	agree
9 months	agree
6 months	agree strongly

3.10 Other embargo period/comments

We think the embargo period needed in order to help the publishers gain their return of investment widely differs between academic disciplines. It should be negotiated separately for the STM disciplines and research in the arts and humanities.

4. Access to digital scientific information (including open access): research data

4.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "generally speaking, there is NO access problem to research data in Europe"?	disagree strongly
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4.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to enhancing access to research data?

Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to research data	no opinion
Lack of funding to develop and maintain the necessary data infrastructures	very important
Insufficient credit given to researchers making research data available/lack of incentives	important
Lack of mandates to deposit research data	no opinion
Lack of data management requirements in research projects	very important
Confidentiality/privacy issues	not very important

4.3 Comments

4.4 Do you think that research data that is publicly available and that results from PUBLIC funding should, as a matter of principle, be available for re-use and free of charge on the internet?	agree strongly
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4.5 Comments

As long as confidentiality / privacy issues and issues of data protection are observed

4.6 Do you think that research data that is publicly available and that results from PARTLY PUBLIC AND PARTLY PRIVATE funding should, as a matter of principle, be available for re-use and free of charge on the internet?

agree

4.7 Comments

Depends on the relationship between the two sums. The higher the percentage of private investment, the more the interests of the private investor will have to be observed. Embargo period for re-use of data could be introduced. The parties will have to negotiate & agree on publication strategy before proceeding with the project. Public's interest in free access to knowledge should be privileged

5. Preservation of digital scientific information

5.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "Generally speaking, the issue of preservation of scientific information is at present sufficiently addressed"?

disagree

5.2 Do you agree with the following statements regarding potential barriers to enhancing preservation of scientific information in the digital age?

It is not always clear which scientific information should be preserved

agree

It is not always clear who is responsible for preserving scientific information (research organisations, libraries, governments?)

no opinion

There is no harmonised approach to legal deposit (legal requirement that copies of publications be submitted to a repository, usually a library)

no opinion

Funding for preservation is inadequate

agree

The quality and interoperability of repositories need to be further developed

agree

5.3 Comments

Legal barriers have to be removed. Public archives, libraries, museums & educational establishments should be allowed to make all copies technically necessary for long-term archiving of all their collections, regardless of the rights holders' consent. Regarding questions on long-term archiving and preservation of the European cultural heritage in the digital age EU funding would be helpful.

6. Comments

6.1 Please provide any further comments or inputs in the space below.

We welcome the initiative of the EU Commission to elaborate a binding recommendation for all Member States with regard to access to and preservation of scientific knowledge. It is high time for the EU to find a common approach to these issues. We thank the EU Commission for offering us the possibility to express our opinion on the matter.

Meta Informations

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