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Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

The Max Planck Society

2003-10
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
https://hdl.handle.net/10539/49942
The Max Planck Society. (2003). Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. [Presentation, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg]. WIReDSpace. https://hdl.handle.net/10539/49942

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Preface

The Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage. For the first time ever, the Internet now offers the chance to constitute a global and interactive representation of human knowledge, including cultural heritage and the guarantee of worldwide access.

We, the undersigned, feel obliged to address the challenges of the Internet as an emerging functional medium for distributing knowledge. Obviously, these developments will be able to significantly modify the nature of scientific publishing as well as the existing system of quality assurance.

In accordance with the spirit of the Declaration of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the ECHO Charter and the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, we have drafted the Berlin Declaration to promote the Internet as a functional instrument for a global scientific knowledge base and human reflection and to specify measures which research policy makers, research institutions, funding agencies, libraries, archives and museums need to consider.

Goals

Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society. New possibilities of knowledge dissemination not only through the classical form but also and increasingly through the open access paradigm via the Internet have to be supported. We define open access as a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community.

In order to realize the vision of a global and accessible representation of knowledge, the future Web has to be sustainable, interactive, and transparent. Content and software tools must be openly accessible and compatible.

Definition of an Open Access Contribution

Establishing open access as a worthwhile procedure ideally requires the active commitment of each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge and holder of cultural heritage. Open access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material.

Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions:

1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.

2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, inter operability, and long-term archiving.

Supporting the Transition to the Electronic Open Access Paradigm

Our organizations are interested in the further promotion of the new open access paradigm to gain the most benefit for science and society. Therefore, we intend to make progress by

- encouraging our researchers/grant recipients to publish their work according to the principles of the open access paradigm.
- encouraging the holders of cultural heritage to support open access by providing their resources on the Internet.
- developing means and ways to evaluate open access contributions and online journals in order to maintain the standards of quality assurance and good scientific practice.
- advocating that open access publication be recognized in promotion and tenure evaluation.
- advocating the intrinsic merit of contributions to an open access infrastructure by software tool development, content provision, metadata creation, or the publication of individual articles.

We realize that the process of moving to open access changes the dissemination of knowledge with respect to legal and financial aspects. Our organizations aim to find solutions that support further development of the existing legal and financial frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and access.

Signatories:

On behalf of the German research organisations (in alphabetical order):

Hans-Jörg Bullinger — 22 October 2003
President of the Fraunhofer Society

Karl Max Einhäupl — 22 October 2003
Chairman des Wissenschaftsrates

Peter Gaehtgens — 22 October 2003
President of the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz

Peter Gruss — 22 October 2003
President of the Max Planck Society

Hans-Olaf Henkel — 22 October 2003
President Leibniz Association

Walter Kröll — 22 October 2003
President Helmholtz Association

Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker — 22 October 2003
President German Research Foundation

Further national & international Signatories:

Bernard Larrouturou — 22 October 2003
Director General, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)

Jürgen Mittelstraß — 22 October 2003
President, Academia Europaea

Paolo Galluzzi — 22 October 2003
Director, Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence

Christian Bréchot — 22 October 2003
Director General, Institut National de la Santé
et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)

Yehuda Elkana — 22 October 2003
President and Rector, Central European University, Budapest

Jean-Claude Guédon — 22 October 2003
Open Society Institute

Martin Roth — 22 October 2003

Director General, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden

Friedrich Geisselmann — 22 October 2003
Head of the Deutscher Bibliotheksverband

José Miguel Ruano Leon — 22 October 2003
Minister of Education, Cultura y Deportes Gobierno de Canarias

Dieter Simon — 22 October 2003
President, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Jens Braarvig — 22 October 2003
Director, Norwegian Institute of Palaeography and Historical Philology

Peter Schirmbacher — 22 October 2003
CEO of the Deutsche Initiative für Netzwerkinformation

Status 22 October 2003 (conference end)

The actual status of signatories can be viewed at
http://www.oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/signatories.html