

Open Access, how to finally get it right

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1) why has open access to scholarly publications become an issue?

(basically because since the introduction of digital formats publishers felt they had to protect their products by restricted licensing)

2) why is it an issue of public interest?

(because results of research deserve the widest possible dissemination, also outside academia, in the public interest)

3) why is it taking so long to find a way out?

(most publishers find the introduction of new business models based on broadcasting rather than subscription risky, so they stick to traditional ways as long as they can)

4) is the transition indeed difficult or risky?

(I compare it to the transition from sails to steam in shipping: a matter of innovation that requires a business mind rather than a bankers mind)

5) why do relatively few academics work for open access?

(simply because most academics do not realize that easy digital access is confined to academia, and not open to the public at large; at the same time it in fact is of great individual interest for academic authors as well: open access means much wider usage)

6) how can change be stimulated?

(by international cooperation in academia, among science funders and between governments, because scholarly publishing is to a large extent an international market that cannot migrate only on a national scale)

Towards a European Policy on Open Access

José C. Cotta

Head of Unit 'Digital Science'

**Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content &
Technology (DG CONNECT)**

28 February 2013

Club des Organismes de Recherche Associés (CLORA), Brussels



EU Policy objective

The EU wants to optimise the impact of publicly-funded scientific research

- At European level (Framework Programmes)
- At Member State level

Expected impacts:

- Economic growth (accelerated innovation)
- Better science (build on previous results)
- More efficient science (avoid duplication)
- Improved transparency (involving citizens & society)



One way to get there: open access to scientific information

Open access (OA) = online access at no charge to the user

- to peer-reviewed scientific publications
- to research data

Expected impacts of OA:

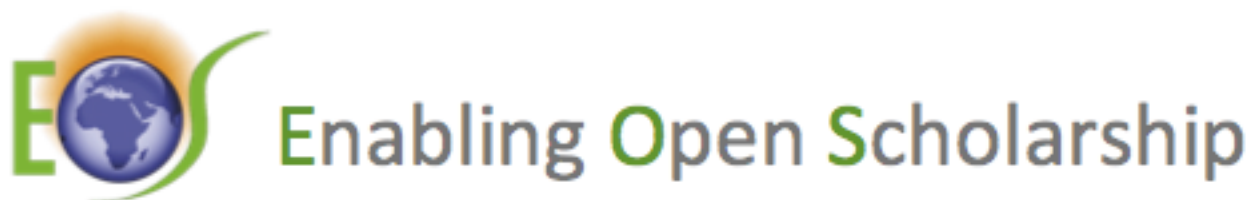
- Results of publicly funded research can be disseminated more broadly and faster for the benefit of researchers, industry and citizens
- Equal access across Europe and beyond
- Drive down the costs of dissemination without sacrificing quality

Open Access by 2020?

Alma Swan

Convenor, Enabling Open Scholarship
Director, Key Perspectives Ltd

ERA Conference 2012, Brussels, 30 January 2012



Bottlenecks

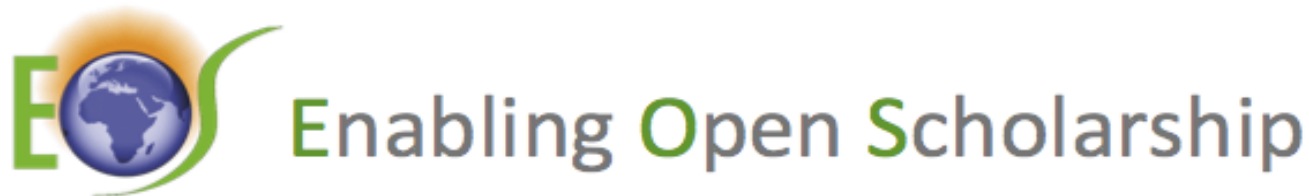
- Lack of awareness and understanding
- Limited policy development
- Copyright-related issues
- Misconceptions about quality
- The cost of publishing in Open Access journals



Enabling Open Scholarship

Key factors for success

- Infrastructure developments
- Good policy development at institutional, national and international level
- Advocacy and culture-change efforts
- Collaboration, networking and coordination



“international cooperation in academia, among science funders and between governments”

this is easier said than done

basically because of **fragmentation** along a multitude of lines
and because of **our inability** to exercise policies of pressure

(by contrast each and every multinational publisher demonstrates unity of purpose and action)

what we need is concerted action,
intensifying what has been done so far,
an orchestrated effort, well synchronized,
running parallel in a number of countries,
including serious negotiations with key publishers

in negotiations unity of purpose and action are key factors
of success (at your end)

but one must also think about the other side!

two factors are absolutely crucial here:

pressure and comfort,

pressure to make the other side accept the need to
change

and comfort to enable the other side to accept the
outcome

change may be in the air
it won't come by itself

so in the interest of making progress

we must add on to the wide array of analyses,
policies, and statements

road-mapped*) negotiations between key players

*) well structured along timelines and participants

this is what we hope to achieve
this coming winter/spring season
during the Dutch presidency of EU:

a coalition of a good number of member states
represented by their governments, their academic
institutions and key funders

ready to engage in such an intensified effort
of concerted, well-synchronized actions
in and by a good number of countries
with the objective of realizing
open access to scholarly publications
in those countries
by January 1st, 2020

[http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/extra/signtheLERUs
tatement](http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/extra/signtheLERUs_tatement)

just today Kurt Deketelaere (S-G LERU) issued the
“LERU statement for the 2016 Dutch EU Presidency”
on Open Access

with the pay off “Christmas is over”
and a call to sign and support

@Kurt Deketelaere @LERUnews on Twitter

I very much welcome your advise
on the do's and don'ts
of this project and the planned process

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