

09. September 2011

Online survey on scientific information in the digital age

1. Respondent

Deutscher Bibliotheksverband e.V. (German Library Association)

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)?

(Agree strongly – agree – no opinion – disagree – disagree strongly)

Policy formulation at European level on access and preservation issues: **agree strongly**

Coordinating existing initiatives in EU Member States: **agree**

Supporting the development of a European network of repositories (online archives): **agree**

Encourage universities, libraries, funding bodies, etc., to implement specific actions: **agree strongly**

2.2. Comments:

The European Union should take further steps to harmonize copyright law and lower the barriers currently hindering the free exchange of scientific knowledge.

National governments seem hesitant to enact science- and education-friendly copyright regulations, fearing possible conflicts with Directive 2001|29|EC ("InfoSoc").

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

- 3.2. **How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to access to scientific publications?**

(Very important – important – no opinion – not very important – no important at all)

Insufficient national / regional strategies/policies on access to scientific publications: **important**

High prices of articles/journal subscriptions: **very important**

Limited or reduces library budgets: **very important**

Different Value Added Tax (VAT) rates for online media and printed material: **very important**

Lack of awareness and interest within the research community on access and open access: **no opinion**

No incentive system in place encouraging and rewarding practices that enhance access: **important**

3.3. Comments:

Monopolistic structures within the market for academic literature, coupled with a general increase in the number of scientific texts, make it increasingly difficult for libraries to provide researchers with the needed scientific information. The EU should advocate better library funding and, at the same time, take legislative measures to minimise the effects of a failing market for academic journals.

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

3.5. Do you think that open access can increase access to and dissemination of scientific publications?

agree strongly

3.6. Do you think that open access to scientific publications can co-exist with the traditional scientific publication system?

agree

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“): **3**

Self-archiving („green open access“): **1**

A combination of self-archiving and open access publishing: **2**

Funded conversion of traditional subscription-based journals to open access journals: **4**

3.8. Comments:

A legislation backed “golden”-road approach could change the system from paying for hitherto exclusive access to paying for valuable publication services such as editing or brand management. A healthy competition between (cheaper) “green” and (more expensive, but better serviced) “golden” publications could be generated if competition were based on publication services rather than access.

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: **disagree**

12 months: **agree**

9 months: **agree**

6 months: **agree strongly**

3.10. Other embargo period/comments:

It is important that all types of publications (papers, monographs, audiovisual works) be included in a regulation for self-archiving. Problems of demarcation would arise if self-archiving were limited to particular types of publications. Copyright laws would once again become more complicated. What should be done with hybrid publications? Where does a longer paper end and where does a monograph begin?

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

4.2. How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to enhancing access to research data?

(Very important – important – no opinion – not very important – not important at all)

Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to research data: **very important**

Lack of funding to develop and maintain the necessary data infrastructures: **important**

Insufficient credit given to researchers making research data available/lack of incentives: **very important**

Lack of mandates to deposit research data: **very important**

Lack of data management requirements in research projects: **not very important**

Confidentiality/privacy issues: **important**

4.3. Comments:

It is not necessary to create an entirely new infrastructure for research data. Europe already has an excellent library-infrastructure with much experience in dealing with large amounts of digital information and long term preservation. Providing sufficient funding, this existing infrastructure should be used for the new task of research-data-storage.

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

4.5. Comments:

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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:

Europe has a well functioning patent-law. If partly privately funded research leads to the development of new products, these products should be patented. Apart from that, we see little reason, why any - even if only partly - publicly funded research should be kept secret from the public.

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 strongly

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: **disagree strongly**

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

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

Funding for preservation is inadequate: **agree strongly**

The quality and interoperability of repositories need to be further developed: **agree**

5.3. Comments:

State-of-the-art long-term preservation of digital information is impossible without copies of copies of copies of the original digital source. The necessary migration to other technical surroundings is possible only if the original data stream is readjusted. However, it is doubtful whether these copies or manipulations to an original data stream are even allowed under Directive 2001|29|EC (InfoSoc).

6. Comments

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

The value of a scientific text for future research is severely limited if the text can only be viewed on-screen but not, for example, circulated among peer researchers, copied and printed for personal use, freely distributed to students or used in classrooms. Innovative science needs “quality access”.

Europe has an excellent - but severely underfunded - information-infrastructure due to its well-established network of libraries. The Commission is well advised to build on this infrastructure to achieve the ambitious goals of the Flagship Initiatives Innovation Union and Digital Agenda

Der Deutsche Bibliotheksverband e.V. (dbv)

Im Deutschen Bibliotheksverband e.V. (dbv) sind ca. 2.000 Bibliotheken aller Sparten und Größenklassen Deutschlands zusammengeschlossen. Der gemeinnützige Verein dient der Förderung des Bibliothekswesens und der Kooperation aller Bibliotheken. Sein Anliegen ist es, die Wirkung der Bibliotheken in Kultur und Bildung sichtbar zu machen und ihre Rolle in der Gesellschaft zu stärken. Zu

den Aufgaben des dbv gehört auch die Förderung des Buches und des Lesens als unentbehrliche Grundlage für Wissenschaft und Information, sowie die Förderung des Einsatzes zeitgemäßer Informationstechniken.

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