

EC recommendations on open access to and preservation of scientific information

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Presentation at Autumn training school “Development and Promotion of Open Access to Scientific Information and Research”, September 20, 2014, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.7.2012
C(2012) 4890 final

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 17.7.2012

on access to and preservation of scientific information

{SWD(2012) 221 final}
{SWD(2012) 222 final}

“Policies on OA to scientific research results should apply to all research that receives public funds. Such policies are expected to improve conditions for conducting research by reducing duplication of efforts and by minimising the time spent searching for information and accessing it. This will speed up scientific progress and make it easier to cooperate across and beyond the EU. Such policies will also respond to calls within the scientific community for greater access to scientific information.” <http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

Why?

“Enabling societal actors to interact in the research cycle improves the quality, relevance, acceptability and sustainability of innovation outcomes by integrating society’s expectations, needs, interests and values. Open access is a key feature of Member States’ policies for responsible research and innovation by making the results of research available to all and by facilitating societal engagement.”

<http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

Why? (2)

“Businesses will also benefit from wider access to scientific research results. Small and medium-sized enterprises in particular will improve their capacity to innovate. Policies on access to scientific information should therefore also facilitate access to scientific information for private companies...”

<http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

“The Internet has fundamentally changed the world of science and research. For instance, research communities have been experimenting with new ways to register, certify, disseminate and preserve scientific publications. **Research and funding policies need to adapt to this new environment. It should be recommended to Member States to adapt and develop their policies on OA to scientific publications.**”

<http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

“OA to scientific research data enhances data quality, reduces the need for duplication of research, speeds up scientific progress and helps to combat scientific fraud. In its final report ‘Riding the wave: How Europe can gain from the rising tide of scientific data’⁵ in October 2010, the High Level Expert Group on Scientific Data emphasised the critical importance of sharing and preserving reliable data produced during the scientific process. Policy action on access to data is therefore urgent and should be recommended to Member States.” <http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

“Preservation of scientific research results is in the public interest. It has traditionally been under the responsibility of libraries, especially national legal deposit libraries. The volume of research results generated is growing tremendously. Mechanisms, infrastructures and software solutions should be in place to enable long-term preservation of research results in digital form. Sustainable funding for preservation is crucial as curation costs for digitised content are still relatively high. Given the importance of preservation for the future use of research results, the establishment or reinforcement of policies in this area should be recommended to Member States.” <http://bit.ly/Q3sDJ9>

**“HEREBY RECOMMENDS THAT
MEMBER STATES:**

Open access to scientific publications

Ensure that, as a result of these policies:
there should be open access to publications resulting from publicly funded research as soon as possible, preferably immediately and in any case no later than six months after the date of publication, and 12 months for social sciences and humanities;

Ensure that, as a result of these policies (2):

licensing systems contribute to open access to scientific publications resulting from publicly-funded research in a balanced way, in accordance with and without prejudice to the applicable copyright legislation, and encourage researchers to retain their copyright while granting licences to publishers;

Ensure that, as a result of these policies (3):

the academic career system supports and rewards researchers who participate in a culture of sharing the results of their research, in particular by ensuring open access to their publications and by developing, encouraging and using new, alternative models of career assessment, metrics and indicators;

Ensure that, as a result of these policies (4):

transparency is improved, in particular by informing the public about agreements between public institutions or groups of public institutions and publishers for the supply of scientific information. This should include agreements covering the so-called 'big deals', i.e. bundles of print and electronic journal subscriptions offered at discounted price;

Ensure that, as a result of these policies
(5):

**small and medium-sized enterprises
and unaffiliated researchers have the
widest and cheapest possible access
to scientific publications of the results
of research that receives public
funding.**

2. Ensure that research funding institutions responsible for managing public research funding and academic institutions receiving public funding implement the policies by:

defining institutional policies for the dissemination of and open access to scientific publications; establishing implementation plans at the level of those funding institutions;

2. Ensure that research funding institutions responsible for managing public research funding and academic institutions receiving public funding **implement the policies by (2):**

making the necessary funding available for dissemination (including open access), allowing for different channels, including digital e-infrastructures where appropriate, as well as new and experimental methods of scholarly communication;

(3): adjusting the recruitment and career evaluation system for researchers and the evaluation system for awarding research grants to researchers so that those who participate in the culture of sharing results of their research are rewarded. Improved systems should take into account research results made available through open access and develop, encourage and use new, alternative models of career assessment, metrics and indicators;

(4): giving guidance to researchers on how to comply with open access policies, especially on managing their intellectual property rights to ensure open access to their publications;

(5): conducting joint negotiations with publishers to obtain the best possible terms for access to publications, including use and re-use;

(6): ensuring that results of research that receives public funding are easily identifiable by appropriate technical means, including through metadata attached to electronic versions of the research output.

Open access to research data

3. Define clear policies for the dissemination of and open access to research data resulting from publicly funded research. These policies should provide for:

- concrete objectives and indicators to measure progress;
- implementation plans, including the allocation of responsibilities (including appropriate licensing);
- associated financial planning.

Ensure that, as a result of these policies:
research data that result from publicly funded research become publicly accessible, usable and re-usable through digital e-infrastructures.
Concerns in particular in relation to privacy, trade secrets, national security, legitimate commercial interests and to intellectual property rights shall be duly taken into account....

(2) datasets are made easily identifiable and can be linked to other datasets and publications through appropriate mechanisms, and additional information is provided to enable their proper evaluation and use;

(3) institutions responsible for managing public research funding and academic institutions that are publicly funded assist in implementing national policy by putting in place mechanisms enabling and rewarding the sharing of research data;

(4) advanced-degree programmes of new professional profiles in the area of data-handling technologies are promoted and/or implemented.

Preservation and re-use of scientific information

4. Reinforce the preservation of scientific information, by:

defining and implementing policies, including an allocation of responsibilities for the preservation of scientific information, together with associated financial planning, in order to ensure curation and long-term preservation of research results (primary research data and all other results, including publications);

(2) ensuring that an effective system of deposit for electronic scientific information is in place, covering born-digital publications and, where relevant, the related datasets;

(3) preserving the hardware and software needed to read the information in future, or by migrating the information to new software and hardware environments on a regular basis;

(4) fostering the conditions for stakeholders to offer value-added services based on the re-use of scientific information.”

Thank you!
Questions?

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