

The State of Open Access in Belgium's French-speaking Universities



BICfB...

- BICfB = *Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique*
- Non-profit organization created in 2000 by the **Rectors of the French-speaking universities** (9 universities in 2000; 6 in 2012 [after mergings])
- Aimed at promoting, coordinating and developing a **common policy** between the university libraries regarding academic and scientific documentation
 - **consortial purchase** of eProducts
 - ca 50 products for 2012
 - 1 yearly **project / study** (e.g.: institutional repositories, Open Access, preservation and curation...)
- Financed by the public authorities (65%) and the universities (35%)
- Daily activities managed by a technical staff (1,5 FTE)
- Decisions taken by the Board (6 universities' chief librarians)

A Study on Open Access

- Request from the Rectors and the F.R.S.-FNRS at the General Assembly (Spring 2011)
- Aim: to take stock of OA development and projects in the universities, particularly on:
 - 1) Institutional Mandates
 - 2) Institutional Repositories (IRs) (*Green Road*)
 - 3) Active implication of researchers & professors
(with editorial role) in OA journals (*Gold Road*)
- Made between February and May 2012
- Presented to the Rectors and the F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2012





1) Institutional Mandates for FT

Situation of May 2012

	PhD theses	Journal articles	Other document types
FUNDP	☑ 2008	/	/
FUSL	☑ 2005/2008	/	/
UCL	☑ 2005/2008	☑ 2008 <i>(application planned for 2013)</i>	☑ 2008 <i>(application planned for 2013)</i>
ULB	☑ 2007	☑ 2007	☑ 2007
ULg	☑ 2006	☑ 2007	/
UMONS	/	/	/
F.R.S.- FNRS	/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publications must be referenced in the IRs (recommendation, mandatory 2013 for some researchers) • No mandate for the FT in the IRs 	

2) Green Road



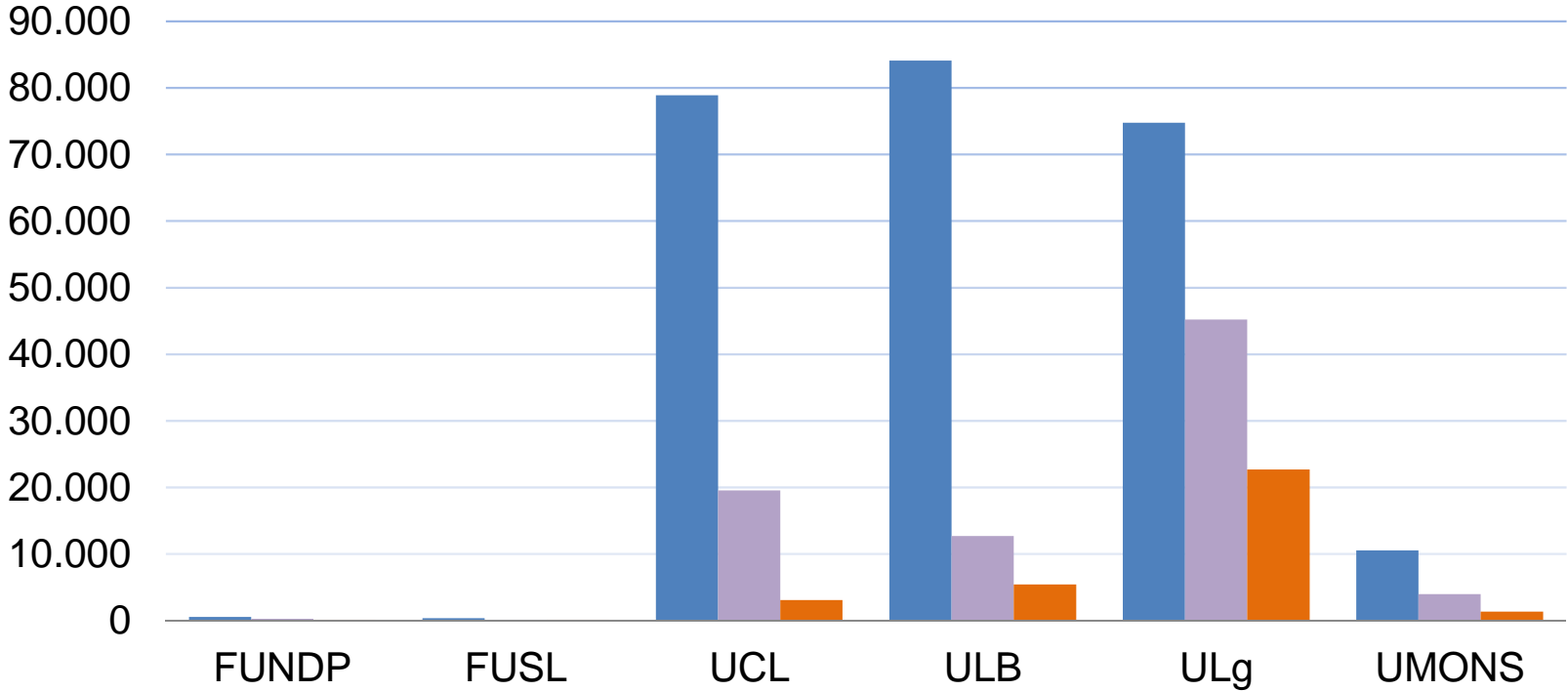
- Two projects:
 - BICTEL/e (2001-2003): PhD theses and e-prints
 - Institutional Repositories (2004-2008)
- Institutional Repositories:
 - **250,000 archived references** (beginning of March 2012) :
 -  ca 33,000 references with an OA FT (13,2%)
 -  ca 49,000 references with a FT in restricted access (19,6%)
 - Very contrasting situation :
 - No systematic FT deposit in all institutions
 - One single institution counts for 2/3 of all references with an OA FT

DI·fusion

DIAL



Total References in the IRs



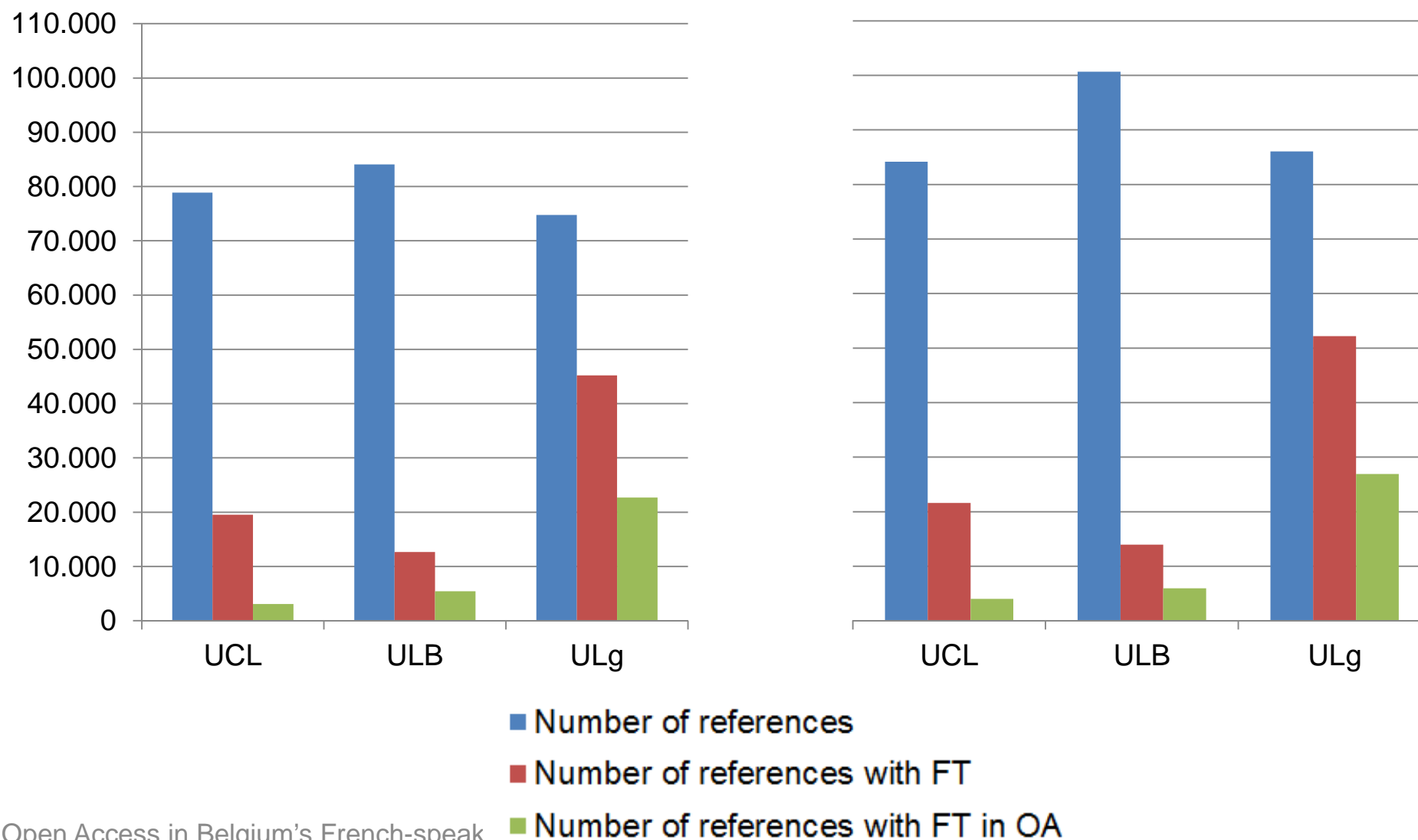
- Number of references
- Number of references with FT
- Number of references with FT in OA

*P. 32 of the report
(data from beginning of March 2012)*

Evolution of the “big” 3 IRs

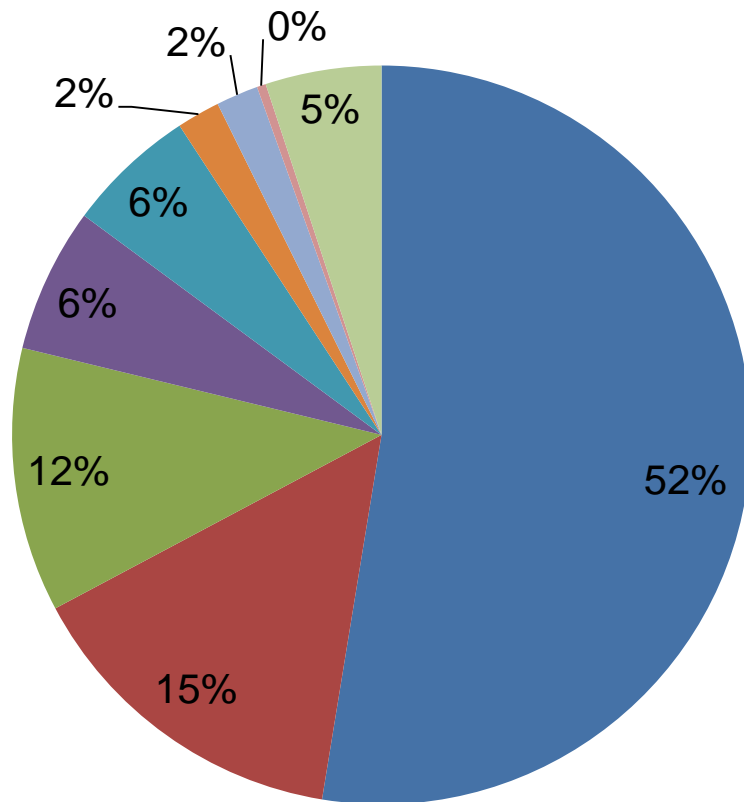
Beginning of March 2012

Mid-October 2012



References with a FT in Open Access

by document type



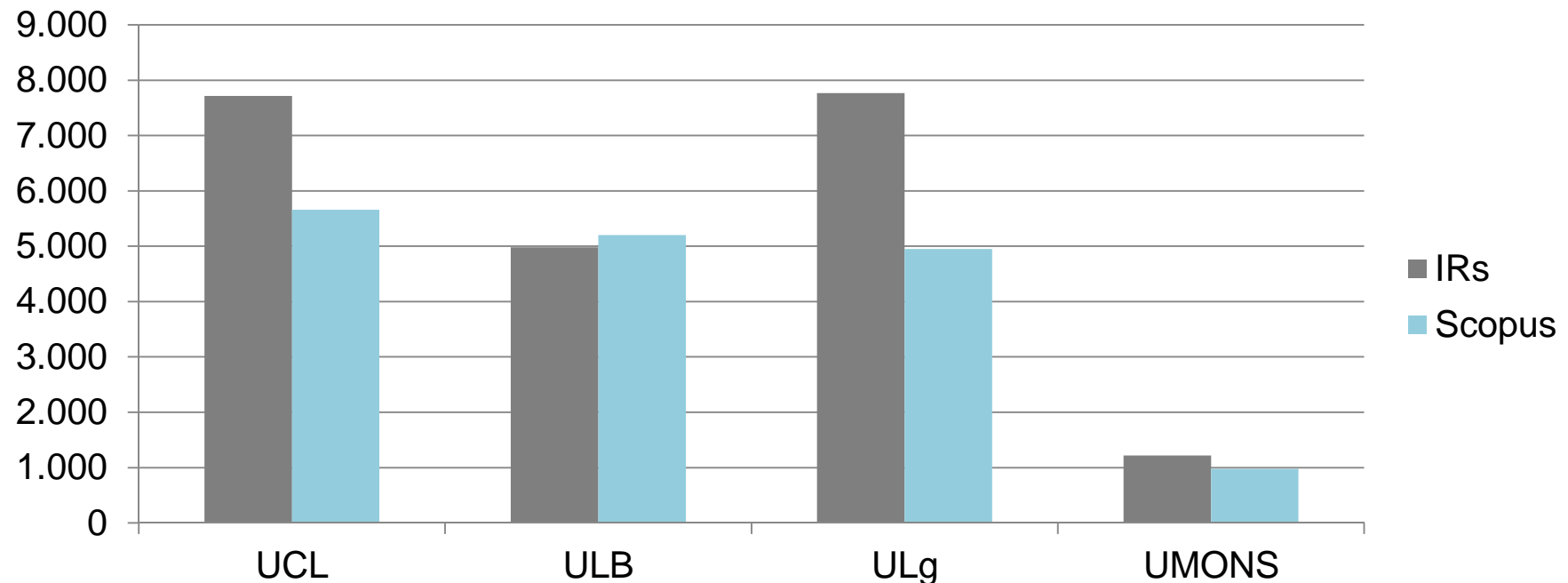
- Academic journal articles [n=17.226]
- Book chapters [n=4.797]
- Unpublished communications [n=3.793]
- Dissertations [n=2.073]
- Working papers [n=1.862]
- Reports [n=621]
- Books [n=604]
- Patents [n=125]
- Others [n=1.665]

Total: 32,766 references

See p. 27 of the report

IRs & Scopus

*Journal articles published between 2009 and 2011
in the IRs and in Scopus*



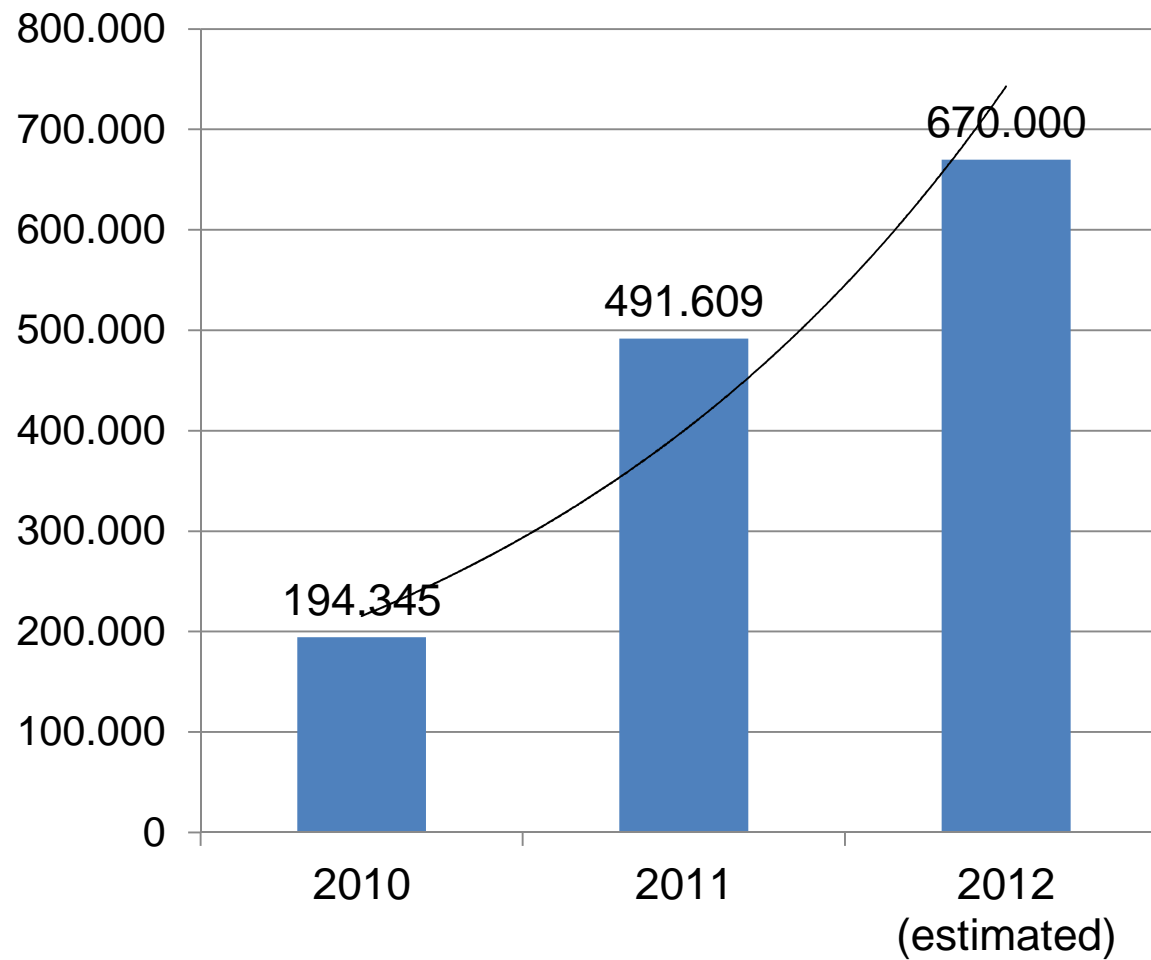
P. 37 of the report

Better visibility of the scholarly production of the universities

→ Journal articles

→ Also for more discrete publication types (working papers, e-prints, reports, patents...) (7% of all IRs)

Downloads from all IRs



3) Gold Road



No inter-university project at the time being

- **PEPS** project (BICfB, 2004):
 - PEPS = *Portail Électronique de Périodiques Scientifiques*
 - = common platform for OA publishing of academic journals
 - study made on behalf of Minister Fr. Dupuis, but no funding for development
- Only local initiatives:
 - Iconothèque ULB (2002)
 - 4,000 images and pictures for teaching and research
 - PoPuPS at ULg (2005)
 - Platform for OA publishing of academic journals (14 journals)
 - Partnership between Bibliothèques ULB and Éditions ULB (2008)
 - Out of print ULB books re-published in OA
 - Book chapters written by ULB authors and published by Éditions ULB available in OA in IR
- What about the implication in OA journals of our researchers & professors (with an editorial role)?

Editorial role in OA journals

- **HOW to come to that information?**

- Corpus based on three sources:

- 1) Online survey for researchers and professors

- 176 answers from 101 different persons (20% with F.R.S.-FNRS mandate)

- 2) Universities' librarians

- 3) Sample (20%) DOAJ



- **WHO & WHAT?**

- Globally, definite identification of:

- **394 professors and researchers** (if DOAJ = 100%: 866)

- **205 academic journals**

- **467 implications** (editor, editor-in-chief, member of the editorial board, member of the scientific board, peer-reviewer...)

Editorial role in OA journals

- Approximately **1/10 researcher from our universities would actively be involved** (editorial role) in OA journals! → **awareness**
 - 1/5 OA journal has got an IF 2010
 - 1/3 OA journal has got an SJR 2011
- } **international recognition**
- **Confusion** among the researchers (8% of the online survey answers) between:
 - Open Access journals,
 - Journals accessible thanks to an institutional subscription (traditional model),
 - And **hybrid journals** (= journal for which a subscription is needed to get access to, with some few Open Access articles [because researchers paid to publish them in OA]) → real necessity to inform better the researchers of the perversity of hybrid journals
 - *Very few publications on Open Access (part from librarians...)*

Conclusions: How to go further?

Mandates

- Institutional mandates should be more respected
- FT deposit mandates for researchers subsidized by the F.R.S.-FNRS
- To a multi-institutional mandate → stronger
- To a European mandate? < fight lead by Universities' Authorities

Copyright issues

- Authors shouldn't automatically give all their copyrights to the publishers
- Keeping rights within the universities

→ **More visibility, more downloads, more recognition!**



BICfB report

L'Open Access en Belgique francophone : étude de la BICfB réalisée à la demande des Recteurs des universités et du F.R.S.-FNRS.

by Renaville, F, Bastin, M, Audrit, S, Thirion, P (Ed.), Boueyrie, P, Chalono, D, de Bergeyck, V, Devroey, J-P, Henin, M-P, Gass, C, Laurent, J, Masselus, C, Nyns, C-H, Petit, N, Poumay, Y, & Vandooren, F.

Bruxelles: Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique (BICfB), 2012.

Available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/124876>

Thanks for your attention!



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Slides available at: <http://hdl.handle.net/2268/132440>