



THE ROAD TO OPEN ACCESS
***A guide to the implementation of the Berlin
Declaration***

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Where we start from

- The opportunity for universal access to the results of academic research provided by the availability of the internet and the WWW
- The superior capabilities of the digital medium for scholarly communication
- The need for rigorous quality assessment of research
- The benefits from the inter-connection of publications with immediate access to primary source data
- The academic community's need to drive future developments in scholarly communication



Where we aim to be

- The publication of the work of researchers according to the principles of open access as defined in the Berlin Declaration – i.e. free access for users and deposit in an open repository
- Maintaining the evaluation of open access content according to the highest standards of quality assurance
- The universal availability of a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the academic community



First steps along the road (already taken)

- The definition of goals in the Berlin Declaration
- The commitment of signatory organizations to promote the goals identified in the Berlin Declaration
- The announcement of the Berlin Declaration together with an invitation to other research organizations to declare their support
- The design of a “roadmap” to assist organizations in planning their strategy in relation to the principles of the Berlin Declaration
- BUT many more steps need to be taken to achieve the Berlin Declaration goals



Raising awareness

- The design of an advocacy programme for internal communication within organizations addressed both to researchers and to organizational leaders
- Communication of the goals of the Berlin Declaration to political players together with a call for financial and legal conditions favourable to open access
- Encouragement to learned societies to support open access through permissions to deposit articles in repositories or through the conversion of journals to an open access business model



Creating a sustainable infrastructure

- Organizations (both institutional and subject-based) committing to open access should establish an open web-site repository into which their researchers may deposit copies of journal articles and research reports
- The repository should be compliant with international standards for interoperability such as OAI-PMH
- Quality assurance procedures should be adopted indicating to the reader the status of items in the repository
- The repository should adopt preservation techniques to ensure the long-term availability of the content it contains
- Appropriate search and retrieval tools should be adopted to facilitate access to the repository content
- Trustworthy statistics should be kept of the use of the repository content
- A sustainable financial and administrative structure should be set up for the organizational repository



Establishing a legal framework

- A legal framework should be established for the organizational repository governing the relationship with authors, publishers and users of the repository content
- The organization should make clear to researchers its policy on deposit in the repository, whether mandatory or recommended
- A scholarship-friendly licence such as Creative Commons should be adopted to govern the relationship with authors and with users of the content
- Publishers should be asked to accept the terms of the licence adopted by the repository for content they have published
- The liability for any infringement of third party rights should be set out in the licence adopted



Supporting open access journals

- The recognition within an organization's research strategy that the dissemination of research results is an indispensable element in the research process
- Signatory organizations may consider encouraging the use of research grants to pay open access publication-charges for their researchers
- Support for learned society publishers willing to transition to an open access business model
- Support for research into a business model ensuring the long-term viability of open access journals



Long-term organizational commitment

- Ensure that the Berlin Declaration principles are built into the organizational strategy
- Create a group or committee to oversee the organizational commitment to open access
- Assign specific responsibilities to specific members of staff
- Build repository costs and open access journal support into the organizational budget
- Maintain contact with other organizations implementing the Berlin Declaration



Where are the barriers on the road to implementation?

- Much has been achieved but much more remains to be achieved before we can say that we are close to reaching the goals set out in the Berlin Declaration
- We need to understand where the barriers lie
- Author motivation? (make deposit as easy as possible and make open access “respectable”)
- Institutional motivation? (demonstrate benefits to the institution)
- Political support? (form alliances with powerful allies – e.g. patient groups, telecoms suppliers)
- Publisher/learned society fears? (demonstrate that open access is no threat to their survival)
- Barriers need to be removed at every stage along the road but we can achieve the Berlin Declaration goals