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# **Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe**

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# Outline

- Launched by EC DG Research
- Contractor
- Scope of the study
- Subjects investigated and methodology
- Information resources and contacts
- Expected results



## Launched by EC DG Research

### Why?

Dissemination and access to research results is a pillar in the development of the ERA

Current public debate reveals worries about the current conditions of access and dissemination of scientific publications

### Questions regarding the scientific publications markets:

- What are the main changes?
- What and who is driving change and why? If there is any resistance to positive change, what/who is blocking it?
- What are the consequences for users (authors, readers, libraries)?



## Launched by EC DG Research

### Aim of the study

Seek to identify measures at European level which could help improve the conditions governing access to and the exchange, dissemination and archiving of scientific publications.

=> Lead to positive actions, taking into account all actors/stakeholders

Contract N° SAS6-CT-2004-20001



# Contractor

Université Libre de Bruxelles – ULB (B)

In collaboration with

Université de Toulouse 1 - UT1 (F)

Include :

Economists from ECARES\* and IDEI\*\*

\*European Centre for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics (ULB)

\*\*Institut d'Economie Industrielle (UT1)

Information scientists from ULB, UT1

Associated professors.



# Scope of the Study

*“Scientific publication markets in Europe”*

## Scientific

STM and SSH

## Journals, because of

- Price increases
- Impact of technology
- Stake for authors, readers, publishers, funding bodies, libraries, universities, governments

## European

Language diversity and specificity of Europe



# Subjects investigated and Methodology

## Multifaceted study

Investigate different aspects that have an impact on scholarly publication

Analyse how all these aspects interact to improve or hinder information dissemination and access

## Multifaceted team

Researchers in information sciences and from libraries

Economists



## Subjects investigated (1)

General organisation of actors on the market : to set the background

Status, role, diversity, added value

Alternatives for disseminating and accessing scientific publications

Open Access movement, current experiments

The technological environment

Key standards and technologies, driving actors



## Subjects investigated (2)

### The legal framework

IPR and VAT

### Publication and research evaluation

Certification of publications; evaluation of researchers; research assessment

### Long-term preservation of electronic publications

Technical, legal and commercial aspects; roles and responsibilities of actors on the market



## Subjects investigated (3)

### Economics of the scientific publication market :

- Analysis of the behaviour of actors in the light of competition policies, and of science and technology policies - led by ECARES (ULB)

Actors, barriers to entry?, pricing/price discrimination, bundling, access to stock of knowledge/copyright issues

Aims to identify vehicles for better information dissemination and access; ways to improve market competitiveness



## Subjects investigated (4)

### Economics of the scientific publication market :

- **Pilot econometric study** - led by IDEI (Toulouse)  
Detailed empirical analysis of academic journals market in France  
Aims to provide a structural analysis of behaviours and strategies



## Information Resources and Contacts

Existing literature and updated “state of the art”

Reports, studies, surveys...

Data collection for economic analyses

About libraries' collections and expenditure for pilot  
econometric study

About publishers' costs for the market competition analysis

Seek the views of actors/stakeholders

Political bodies, corporate associations, interest groups

=> Discussions + recommendations validation process



# Expected Results

Due for Summer 2005

Identify a number of potential policy issues and routes

Formulate a list of tentative recommendations in relation to all the aspects studied

*“to help improve the conditions governing access to and the exchange, dissemination and archiving of scientific publications”*

Afterwards...

Up to the European Commission to determine the effective policy decisions and adequate actions to be taken at the European level.

