Berlin 3 Open Access
University of Southampton
February 28th – March 1st, 2005

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

Françoise Vandooren
Libraries Head Office
Université Libre de Bruxelles
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.