

# Open Access Activities by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

## I. General Situation of Funding Open Access Initiatives

According to the rules (and the limited funding resources), the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) only supports (peer-reviewed) project-based programmes. All initiatives towards Open Access can therefore only be implemented within research projects. The FWF has no possibilities to fund infrastructure and related items separately.

Nevertheless, the FWF has – at least indirectly – given some incentives for researchers to use Open Access more systematically.

## II. Particular Activities

- **Funding Open Access Publications**: For some years, the FWF has been financing all peer reviewed publications resulting from FWF funded projects. Thus, funding of quality-controlled Open Access publishing is already possible within FWF projects, but it depends on the initiative of researchers.
- **Using Funds for Open Access Initiatives**: In 2003, the FWF has introduced a global budget and a cost category *general projects costs* to all schemes. The result is flexibility in spending funds and 5% additional funding for every approved project. These resources are explicitly established for public relation and dissemination strategies (websites, open sources activities, e.g.).
- **University Reform**: The FWF recently organized a small workshop with an expert in order to discuss the overall situation of Open Access Initiatives in Austria. It was agreed that a countrywide solution is needed. For example, Universities could become considerably more interested in Open Access Initiatives as a means of promoting research results in a competitive environment (like in the Netherlands and UK), particularly after the University reform in 2004. The FWF is willing to evolve its funds accordingly, although the basic investment should come from the universities and ministries.
- **European Research Council**: In its statement for the ESF Social Science Standing Committee the FWF has encouraged as potential task of a new European Research Council (ERC) to formulate standards, to create infrastructure and to set incentives for a Europe wide solution for Open Access in Science and the Humanities.
- **New Programmes**: The FWF is currently preparing new programmes, such as Graduate Schools, Cultural Heritage and infrastructure, which will give the researchers more resources and flexibility to use Open Sources elements systematically.