

Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

The “**Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities**” issued at an international conference in Berlin on 22 October 2003 represents one of the milestones of the Open Access movement. For the first time it advocates open access not only to **current research results** but also to **cultural heritage**:

The Internet has fundamentally changed the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage. For the first time ever, the Internet now offers the chance to constitute a global and interactive representation of human knowledge, including cultural heritage and the guarantee of worldwide access.

Goals:

Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society. New possibilities of knowledge dissemination not only through the classical form but also and increasingly through the open access paradigm via the Internet have to be supported.

We define open access as a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community.

In order to realize the vision of a global and accessible representation of knowledge, the future Web has to be sustainable, interactive, and transparent. Content and software tools must be openly accessible and compatible.

Commitment:

Establishing open access as a worthwhile procedure ideally requires the active commitment of each and every individual producer of scientific knowledge and holder of cultural heritage. Open access contributions include original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material.

Supporting the Transition to the Electronic Open Access Paradigm:

Our organizations are interested in the further promotion of the new open access paradigm to gain the most benefit for science and society. Therefore, we intend to make progress by

- encouraging our researchers/grant recipients to publish their work according to the principles of the open access paradigm.
- encouraging the holders of cultural heritage to support open access by providing their resources on the Internet.
- developing means and ways to evaluate open access contributions and online-journals in order to maintain the standards of quality assurance and good scientific practice.
- advocating that open access publication be recognized in promotion and tenure evaluation.

- advocating the intrinsic merit of contributions to an open access infrastructure by software tool development, content provision, metadata creation, or the publication of individual articles.

We realize that the process of moving to open access changes the dissemination of knowledge with respect to legal and financial aspects. Our organizations aim to find solutions that support further development of the existing legal and financial frameworks in order to facilitate optimal use and access.

(Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in Sciences and Humanities, October 22, 2003)



Signatories and Berlin Process

To date, more than **480 international research organizations**, universities, funding organizations, archives, museums and libraries have signed the Declaration and have committed themselves to adhere to the **Berlin Process**. This process has organized ten annual follow-up “Berlin Conferences” held in Europe, Asia, USA, and in Africa.

Mission Statement at the Berlin 11 Open Access Conference of the Max Planck Society

Ten years after the “Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities” a **mission statement** has been drafted to be used as a guideline for future activities of the Max Planck Society towards the goals mentioned in the “Berlin Declaration” a decade ago:

We believe that the most important goal for the coming years is to ensure that 90% of the scholarly research literature is published with an OA model, in order to exploit the innovative and transformational potential of OA. OA at this level will not only greatly benefit research; experience with the Internet has shown that open information will also stimulate a great deal of new information-based economic activity. It is of paramount importance that this transition to OA must preserve or even improve on the quality standards of the present subscription-based model. [...]

We believe that a stable, competitive, and quality-assured OA research publishing system offers immense benefits not only to scholarship but also to society as a whole. Scholarly publishing is a global activity, and organizations that perform and support research, particularly those using public money, have a responsibility to work together globally to realise these benefits. It is time to return control of scholarly publishing to the scholars.

(Mission Statement at the Berlin 11 Open Access Conference of the Max Planck Society, 2013)



Contact MPIWG

Urs Schoepflin
Open Access Strategy
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
schoepfl@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Simone Rieger
Open Access Repository
“ECHO-Cultural Heritage Online
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
rieger@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Contact MPG

Georg Botz
Coordination Open Access Policy
Max Planck Society
georg.botz@gv.mpg.de

URL

Open Access at the Max Planck Society
<http://openaccess.mpg.de/>

