

Mission Statement

Ten Years After the

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

The 2003 Berlin Declaration asserted that scholarly research publications and cultural heritage shall be freely accessible and usable for scientists and the public. A fundamental premise of the declaration is that Open Access (OA) is a responsibility of research organisations and that the publication and dissemination of results are integral parts of the research process.

In the ten years since, the signatories of the Berlin Declaration and many other organisations have fostered a remarkable growth of OA, by supporting repositories, OA publishing, and campaigns to raise awareness of OA in the scientific, publishing, and political communities. But still only 10% of the scholarly literature is published in OA journals. We believe that the most important goal for the coming years is to ensure that 90% of the scholarly literature is published with an OA model, in order to exploit the innovative and transformational potential of OA. It is of paramount importance that this transition must preserve or even improve on the quality standards of the present subscription-based model.

We call on the signatories of the Berlin Declaration and on all other organisations that perform or support scholarly research to:

1. increase the support for and interoperability of OA repositories for scholarly materials;
2. support new and innovative OA publishing models that meet the highest possible scholarly standards; and
3. cooperate with one another to ensure a smooth transition to a stable and functioning, truly open scholarly publishing system, including access to scholarly source and cultural heritage data.

We therefore urge research organisations to work together internationally with the following aims:

- a. *Standards*: Establish a common definition of OA, which includes an appropriate license for re-use of published material and standards to allow full-text machine searching of the scholarly literature.
- b. *Stability*: Adopt common policies that will allow scholars access to funding for OA publishing fees, that will permit the re-purposing of money currently used for subscriptions into funding for such fees to the greatest extent possible, and that will create a truly competitive market among publishers for scholarly publications.
- c. *Quality*: Ensure the quality of the published literature by expecting appropriate selectivity and standards of scholarship in OA publications. No work by any scholar should be prevented from being published in an OA journal for which it has been accepted by the lack of funding for article fees.
- d. *Transition*: Cooperate to create policies and reward systems that enable a smooth transition of the scholarly literature from its present domination by subscription-based journals to the OA model outlined above, for example by progressive conversion of subscription funds into OA publishing funds and enhanced recognition for OA publications.

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