

Date: Thu, 17 May 2012 14:11:29 +0200 (CEST)
From: farge <farge@lmd.ens.fr>
To: Timothy Gowers <W.T.Gowers@dpmms.cam.ac.uk>
Cc: costofknowledge@ima.umn.edu
Subject: Re: Horizon 2020

Dear Tim,
Dear All,

Thank you very much. I think this decision of the EU is both good and bad news, since it will actually back Gold and Green OA which are both dubious solutions where publishers keep the ownership of the journals. This is dangerous since the cost publishers ask authors for Gold OA is much too large (Frank Sander, head of the Max Planck Digital Library, told me that the actual cost is in the range 100-400 \$/ paper) and with Green OA they high fees to readers during 6-12 months after publication.

At this stage we still have few weeks to act and try to make sure the final statement will be compatible to what we want. I see several propositions we should make to the EU persons preparing it :

- 1 - only Open Access be mentionned, without precising the way this will be implemented. If Gold OA or Green OA are decided and explicitly mentionned in the EC statement, this means that publishers win!
- 2 - if Gold OA and Green OA are mentionned it should be required that the fees (paid by authors and/or readers) should be the lowest on the market. We have to be very careful not to let publishers fix the price they wish. Indeed, the three largest publishers (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley/Blackwell) are organized as a cartel and employ the same lobbyists in Bruxelles, pretending they guarantee the quality of peer-review and thus justifying the high fees they ask (to us...).
- 3 - what we want is Free OA (neither the author nor the reader pay any fee) with the argument that the EU budget is large enough to offer facilities (supercomputers, satellites, tokamaks...) scientists need to produce results, EU should offer the publishing platforms we need to discuss, peer-review and diffuse our ideas and results.

In the mail I sent to our COK group on May 16th I explained that I am presently spending one month in Berlin (at Wissenschaftskolleg and Max Planck Institute) to see the OA solutions which already exist there and explore new ones. I gave you in that mail the links to several websites of Free OA Publications supported by the Max Planck Society.

Three weeks ago I was invited at the European Commission in Bruxelles and met several persons there. I told Tim on the phone about what I learned there, but had not yet time to write you about it. I will do it soon.

All the best to you all!

Marie