



## Fact Sheet

### Open Access

**Open Access:** A popular model of scholarly publishing, where the reader can access published materials freely via the Internet. Because scholarly research is financed with public funds, it is the task of the government and the scientific institutions to make the results of scholarly communication visible to society. The Open Access movement strives for a new model of scholarly communication, in the same way the physicists, who started this movement, intended it.

<http://arxiv.org/>

There are two ways of making a publication 'Open Access':

- Publish the paper in a traditional journal, without granting exclusive rights to the publisher, and self-archive the paper in an Institutional/ Subject-based Repository;
- Publish the paper in an Open Access Journal, where the author pays a contribution and the article is immediately accessible worldwide.

**Digital repositories/Open archives:** Electronic archives consisting of articles, conference papers, theses, images, raw data, etc., which are freely accessible through web-based services. Harvesters (services providers) work with digital repositories to collect the requested material.

An **institutional repository** (IR) is a digital repository which represents (part of) the scholarly communication of an institution. The repository material is archived for the long term. From this perspective, the institutional repository is often called an "Institutional Archive" or "Open Archive". Scholars who deposit their material in this repository, can also make their bibliography publicly available. These can be harvested and are thus much more visible than the materials in the hands of non OA- publishers.

**Open Archives:** The Open Archives Initiative <http://www.openarchives.org> is an organisation which supports Open Archives in a technical way, by, for example, offering metadata standards or refining current metadata schemes, and by assuring interoperability between repositories, describing complex objects, etc. Their mission is to facilitate fast and unimpeded exchange between content (repositories) and service providers (e.g. search engine OAISTER, <http://www.oaister.org>).

**Open Access Initiative:** The start of the Open Access Initiative was given in Budapest, 2001, with a declaration of principles for institutions, governments and authors concerning Open Access publishing, written by Open Access pioneers. This declaration was updated in the Bethesda Statement (June 2003) was followed up by the **Berlin Declaration**<sup>1</sup> (September 2003). For Belgium, two major funding bodies have already signed: the FWO and the FNRS. In 2007, DRIVER commits itself to raising more awareness and add more signatories to the list.

<sup>1</sup> For an updated list of signatories:  
<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>