



Berlin Declaration

What? The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities was drawn up at a conference of the Max Planck Institute in Berlin in October 2003. This declaration, which stimulates 'Open Access to scientific knowledge and cultural heritage' through internet-based infrastructures, was signed by Peter Gruss signed, together with other important German and European representatives of European institutions and organisations.

The signatories of the Berlin Declaration agree to the principles of the Open Access movement, which include the following:

- To encourage **researchers** to publish their materials in Open Access (through self-archiving or publishing in OA journals)
- To encourage **holders of cultural heritage** to support Open Access by providing their resources on the internet
- To develop a **means of evaluating** Open Access contributions and online journals in order to maintain quality Assurance and the standards of good scientific practice
- To advocate that Open Access publications **be recognized in promotion and tenure evaluation**
- To 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.

By signing the agreement, the signatories accept the responsibilities (Legal, Financial) which this declaration brings about.

***Open Access contributions** must satisfy two conditions:

- The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
- A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the OAI-PMH protocol) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well established organization that seeks to enable Open Access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving.

Pro: Signing the Berlin Declaration offers an institution a unique chance to profile itself as a progressive institution that is visible to the outside world and which recognises and **adds value to research output**. Apart from the advantages for the in-house researchers (impact, user friendliness), the signing institution also shows itself as an **open, socially-conscious institution**, since Open Access helps to bridge the information divide with developing countries, because it eliminates high serial prices. Without licenses developing countries can access more resources they need, and share their information with us.

The Berlin Declaration was signed by all Belgian universities minus one, as well as the Ministers of Research and Education, and the research funding agencies (a bit earlier), at the national OA conference organised by DRIVER in 2007: <http://www.driver-repository.be/content1.aspx?PageId=162> .