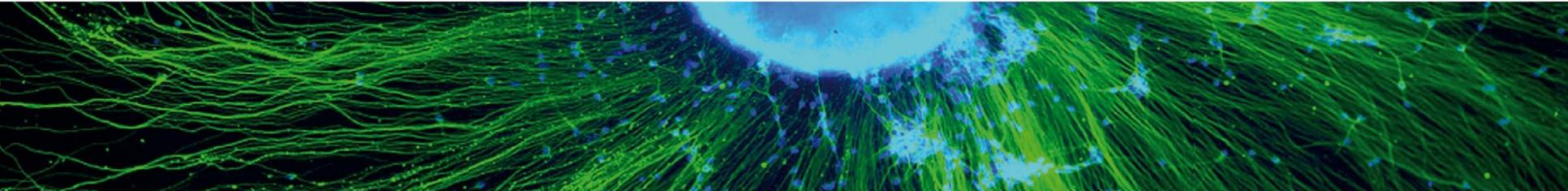




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ESF-EMRC Science Policy Briefing

Open Access in Biomedical Research

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The international landscape of Open Access in biomedical research

Dr Nathalie Duchange

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale
(Inserm), France

Nathalie.duchange@inserm.fr

The US NIH Public Access Policy - 1

- 2007: **Congress law** requiring that all NIH-funded manuscripts be made freely available in PMC **no later than 12 months** after publication
- **NIH policy is consistent with US copyright law:** an author, as creator of the work, holds the copyright in the original paper.
 - NIH allowed to distribute the accepted manuscript through the PMC system in return for the NIH funding the authors receive
 - Authors are free to publish in any journal provided that they retain the right to deposit a copy of their peer-reviewed manuscript in PMC.
- PMC contains **>74,000 NIH-funded papers published in 2010**, i.e. **~75%** of all NIH-funded papers published that year
- **~ 60%** of NIH-funded articles in PMC are deposited in the form of a **final peer-reviewed manuscript**. Remaining **40% come from OA or traditional publishers** who directly supply the **final published version** of the article to PMC.

The US NIH Public Access Policy - 2

- **Publishers** have stated that **NIH policy will harm scientific publishing industry**, damage peer-review process and adversely affect scientific quality of articles => **no data** to support these assertions.
- Instead:
 - **continued growth** in the industry during this time (incl. during major recession).
 - **number of active peer-reviewed journals** in biological sciences, medicine and health has increased.
- Vigorous **political debate** about the OA issue:
 - **Research Works Act** (negative for OA) => **dropped**
 - **Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)** (negative for free flow of scientific information) => **rejected**
 - **Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)** introduced by US Congress in 2010 would mandate public access 6 months after publication to research funded by 7 federal agencies. **February 2012: the Bill was introduced as a bipartisan legislation.**

European Commission and European Research Council

- The **European Commission** is conducting an OA **pilot initiative** since 2008 in FP7. OA to articles resulting from research funded in a number of areas (incl. health) should be provided within a 6 to 12 months => 20% of FP7 budget
- Either a **final published article** or a **final peer-reviewed** manuscript should be deposited in an online repository
- EU-funded portal **OpenAIRE** (“Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe”) has supported the pilot since 2009
- **European Research Council (ERC)**: OA policy since 2007: all peer-reviewed publications from ERC-funded research projects must be deposited upon publication into an appropriate research repository (e.g. PMC) within 6 months.

European Commission and European initiatives

- **A number of EU funded projects**
 - DRIVER and DRIVER- II: create a pan-European infrastructure for digital repositories
 - OpenAIREplus: provide cross-links from publications to data.
 - ELIXIR : construct and operate a sustainable infrastructure for biological information in Europe to support life sciences research (biomolecular data).

- **Working Group on OA** from the European Heads of Research Councils (**EUROHORCs, now Science Europe**):
recommendations to favour gold open access, cover OA fees, help the journal transition to OA and avoid “double dipping”.

France

- **Coordinated approach** : agreement from 2006 to 2008 (to be renewed in 2012) between universities, higher-education schools and public research institutions.
- **National repository: HAL**, developed and maintained at the Center for Direct Scientific Communication of the CNRS (National Scientific Research Center). Preservation ensured.
- A number of **portals either disciplinary or institutional**. Most other local repositories connected to HAL. HAL.
- Harvested by **OpenAIRE** for EU funded projects.
- **Participation to PMC international** by transfer of articles deposited in HAL (under some conditions).
- **Policy**. Incitation rather than requirement from most research organizations. **ANR**, the French National Research Agency has issued an open access policy in November 2007, strongly encouraging, but not mandating, the deposit of funded publications in HAL or other repositories.

Spain

- **Two publicly funded research organisations** have IRs:
 - the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) Digital.CSIC**: multidisciplinary, >42,000 items, majority of scientific articles and conference papers.
 - The **National Health Institute Carlos III (ISCiii)**
 - setting up its own repository,
 - Actively involved through its library in the OA journals project, the Scientific Electronic Library Online, **SciELO Spain**. Selected collection of Spanish health-related journals.
- Two **regions** have issued green OA laws:
 - **Principality of Asturias**: beneficiaries must deposit a copy of their works in the **Institutional Repository (RIA)** after 6 months
 - The **Autonomous Community of Madrid** developed an OA policy in 2008 for co-funded CSIC research: beneficiaries must deposit a copy of their publications in **Digital.CSIC**
- Since late 2011, **national legislation** mandates the deposition of post-prints of published articles funded by the General State Administration in IRs or in a recognised OA repository not later than 12 months following publication

Portugal

- **RCAAP: Scientific Open Access Repository of Portugal** launched in 2008, sponsored by the Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC) and operated by the Foundation for National Scientific Computing (FCCN) with support from University of Minho
- **Electronic services** delivered by RCAAP include the **national aggregator** and other services (scientific journals and data, directory of Portuguese and Brazilian OA IR and journals, etc.)
- **OA progress in Portugal:**
 - expanding network of repositories of academic and research institutions,
 - increasing number of policies and mandates,
 - increasing portfolio of electronic services, and
 - considerable success in mobilising the academic community
- **RCAAP success key factors:**
 - **governance model** based on centres of expertise,
 - **service model** (Software-as-a-Service paradigm),
 - **integrated vision** of how to foster OA at the **national** level
 - **active cooperation** of RCAAP members



Italy

- Increasing awareness of OA benefits
- **National Institute of Health (ISS)**
 - Institutional policy in support of open access (2008)
 - Digital archive Dspace Iss, 30,000 records: **national reference point for online biomedical information via aggregation**
- ISS is the coordinator of **NECOBELAC**, a FP7 funded project for sharing strategy and foster open access in the network of European and Latin American research institutes.
- OA working group within the **Conference of Italian Universities Rectors** (CRUI): guidelines and recommendations on OA.

Austria

- The **FWF (Austrian Science Fund) joined UKPMC** in March 2010
- Since then, ~1,200 FWF funded papers have been deposited in UKPMC
- The **FWF compliance rate is one of the highest of all UKPMC funders** :
 - Publication costs for FWF projects are extra money that the FWF funds up to 3 years after conclusion of the project
 - The FWF funds costs for “real” OA journals and for the so-called “hybrid mode” or “paid option” offered by most publishers
 - Publication costs are directly transferred by the FWF to some publishers (Wiley-Blackwell, Elsevier) with no charge payable by the authors => easier for the researchers to use the FWF funding and deposit their papers in UKPMC.



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