

STATUS REPORT

BERLIN 2 OPEN ACCESS:

STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BERLIN DECLARATION ON OPEN ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE IN THE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

MAY 12 - 13, 2004, CERN, GENEVA.

OPEN ACCESS RESEARCH RESULTS: THE CNRS' INITIATIVES.

The CNRS signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access, and as a signatory undertakes to implement this policy according to economic and disciplinary disparities. The commitment of the CNRS towards accessibility is in keeping with two major strategic goals in STM information: the free dissemination of knowledge and the universal accessibility of research output.

Consequently, within partnerships with French national institutions, like Inserm, and international counterparts, the CNRS has been following the twofold recommended course to achieve Open Access, i.e. support journals in their change towards OA status and the development of institutional and disciplinary open archives.

More specifically, this effort has led to the following results:

- The creation in 2000 of the *Direct Scientific Communication Center* (CCSD/CNRS), whose initial assignment was to facilitate access to preprints in close link with international organizations that were already involved in similar projects and to explore long-term issues and solutions for document authentication and preservation. As an outgrowth of the Physics and Mathematics and Nuclear and Corpuscular Physics Departments of the CNRS, the CCSD was initially dedicated to basic and applied research in physics and allied fields. It has now adopted a strategy of multiple partnerships with publicly-funded research institutions (INRA, INRIA) with the aim of fostering and developing open archives.
- Supportive action for the establishment of new business models in scientific publishing. Since 2002, the CNRS through INIST has been hosting the mirror of the BioMed Central archives whose journals are fully and freely accessible online. Additionally, the CNRS Life Sciences department joined BioMed Central as an Institutional Member. This incentive measure has allowed since then Life Science researchers in some 400 CNRS laboratories to easily publish their papers in BioMed

Central Journals. The CNRS is now exploring together with Inserm how to shift to Open Access status "Médecine Sciences", a French-Quebécois review and training journal in Life and Health Sciences.

- Studies on the creation of a center of excellence in electronic publishing. Once again, the goal is to foster a change to OA status for journals supported by the CNRS. The feasibility study needs to take into account the various economical and cultural aspects of the publishing market and the scientific communities.
- Multiplying awareness campaigns. To name but a few, the seminar on Open Access to scientific and technical information organized in Paris in January 2003 by Inserm, ICSTI and INIST under the aegis of the French Ministry for Research which brought together more than 250 international experts to assess the impact of Open Access on research practices and economy. The seminar on *Open Access to Research Findings: Towards Policies for New Scholarship Models?* to be held during the *Semaine du Document Numérique* in La Rochelle on June 24 and 25 will concentrate on researchers themselves and their institutions. Its purpose is:
 1. to facilitate the implication of research and academic institutions in the policies propounded by the Berlin Declaration (support existing initiatives, create coordinating bodies, take publication-related costs into account in research funding procedures, raise awareness of researchers, etc.);
 2. to help anticipate the future of Open Access by taking into account the economic and cultural diversity of each scientific field.

As a whole, this effort is a prerequisite to fostering a knowledge-sharing culture by changing mentalities and practices.

In the current redesign of the French scientific information environment, which is to include both universities and research public bodies, the Open Access paradigm plays a key role in the national audit set up to review these issues.

This audit is to give recommendations to the Director General on how best to achieve a coherent yet flexible organisation to support initiatives and activities in this extremely fast changing domain, in line with the Berlin Declaration.