

Open Access : Inserm Statement and Actions

Open Access is a strategic investment as well for Inserm the French government institution dedicated to biomedical and health research as for researchers themselves who depend on the free circulation of knowledge to advance their work. We have been working mainly within national-level partnerships with CNRS and especially with INIST/CNRS, but we intend also to continue to expand our Open Access approach to international levels and to include all concerned parties (institutions, researchers, publishers, librarians...).

What Inserm has accomplished to date:

- Our efforts aim at raising awareness of researchers about the stakes involved in Open

Access, its impact and the changing mentality and practices as regards the distribution of research findings. Researchers are coming to terms with the technologies and the world of knowledge sharing that are at the core of Open Access: quick, comprehensive and total sharing of references, texts, raw data...

It is with this awareness in mind that Inserm organized with INIST/CNRS and ICSTI a seminar on Open Access in January 2003 at the French Ministry of Research and provided a page dedicated to Open Access on the Inserm web site (<http://www.inserm.fr>)

- We are encouraging our researchers to publish their work in journals that provide a new economic model ensuring open access to publications while guaranteeing quality (peer review...).

Inserm is an institutional member of BioMed Central since 2003 and is currently considering participating in PLoS.

- We are developing an eprint database allowing Inserm researchers to deposit manuscripts that are accepted for publication. This database will be designed to handle metadata and raw data, reports, clinical trials, cohort studies, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials..., that will guarantee interoperability with national and international systems and ensure that property and priority rights of research works are protected.

Inserm has selected the DSpace digital repository system, the open source software developed by Hewlett-Packard and MIT and attended the DSpace User Group Meeting Overview in Boston on March 10-11, 2004.

We intend to launch a pilot version of this eprint database with several major research centers, such as the French Eastern Region cancer research consortium, and work in partnership with CNRS.

- The Inserm scientific production is more and more available in open access, such as the fulltext of the Inserm's Training Workshops and the Collective Expertise, available:

- on the Inserm web site at <http://disc.vjf.inserm.fr:2010>

- and in PubMed under Bookshelf

In some fields, Inserm updates and enhances these documents and monitors them in order to create Knowledge bases, e.g. on viral hepatitis: <http://www.inserm.fr/bdc/hepatites>

- In cooperation with Inist/CNRS, Inserm is studying the implementation into an Open Access of *médecine/sciences*, a biomedical French-Quebec review and training journal indexed in Medline.

In conclusion, we feel that collaboration between all the involved parties should be reinforced taking into account the specific nature of each scientific community and the tools that should be coordinated. In this given context, Inserm takes part in the evolution towards new models and works on a collective definition of them.

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