

On-line survey on scientific information in the digital age

1. Respondent

1.1 I am replying as /on behalf of a(n) (if you represent more than one category, please choose the most relevant one):	International organisation
1.2 Please provide your name (will be published):	
David Lee	
1.3 Please provide your e-mail address (will not be published):	
d.lee@eps.org	
1.4 Please provide the name of your organisation (if you are responding as a citizen, enter "citizen"):	
European Physical Society	
1.5 Please provide your country of residence / establishment:	France

2. What role for Europe?

2.1 There are already many developments regarding access to and preservation of scientific information in Europe, at governmental, funding body and institutional level. For some years, the European Union has also been developing policies in these areas.

In your opinion, in what specific areas can and should the European Union best contribute to improving the circulation of knowledge, and specifically access to and preservation of scientific information (including both publications and data)?

Policy formulation at European level on access and preservation issues	agree
Co-ordinating existing initiatives in EU Member States	agree
Supporting the development of a European network of repositories (online archives)	agree
Encourage universities, libraries, funding bodies, etc., to implement specific actions	agree

2.2 Comments

The EU roles are as described in 2.1, but these need to be placed in context. The scientific community and learned society publishers (LSPs) have developed and guaranteed a high quality scientific publishing sector in Europe. As the main producers and users of scientific publications, any EU recommendations need to be based on the experience and input of scientists and LSPs.

3. Access to digital scientific information (including open access): scientific publications

3.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "there is NO problem with access to scientific publications in Europe"?	agree
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3.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to access to scientific publications?

Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to scientific publications	not very important
High prices of articles/journal subscriptions	no opinion
Limited or reduced library budgets	very important
Different Value Added Tax (VAT) rates for online media and printed material	important
Lack of awareness and interest within the research community on access and open access	not very important
No incentive system in place encouraging and rewarding practices that enhance access	no opinion

3.3 Comments
 Lack of funding for libraries is a main barrier to access. LSPs provide many services to researchers: peer review/quality control, indexing and referencing, cross journal/platform standards, layout, editorial assistance, legal protection... LSPs also drive technological innovation the publishing industry including electronic access. LSP services and development require significant investment.

3.4 Do you think that publications resulting from publicly funded research should, as a matter of principle, be available free of charge to readers on the internet (i.e. open access mode)?	disagree
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3.5 Do you think that open access can increase access to and dissemination of scientific publications?	
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3.6 Do you think that open access to scientific publications can co-exist with the traditional scientific publication system?	agree strongly
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3.7 Open access to scientific publications can be achieved in different ways, in particular through researchers self-archiving in repositories ("green open access") and through self-archiving ("green journals") or a fee ("gold open access").	1
	4

A combination of self-archiving and open access publishing	3
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Which of the following different modes should public research policy facilitate in order to increase the number and share of scientific publications available in open access? Please rate the following options from 1 to 4 (1 = first choice; 4 = last choice):

Funded conversion of traditional subscription-based journals to open access	3
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journals	
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3.8 Comments

LSPs related to EPS (Institute of Physics Publishing - UK, Società Italiana di Fisica - IT, EDP Sciences/Société Française de Physique - FR, and Europhysics Letters - EU) lead the development of electronic delivery and retrieval of scientific research. LSPs use different OA business models: 30 day free access, full OA journals (author pays), hybrid journals, site licenses, consortia agreements...

3.9 In the case of self-archiving ("green open access"), what embargo period (period of time during which publication is not yet open access) is desirable?

18 months	disagree strongly
12 months	disagree strongly
9 months	disagree strongly
6 months	disagree strongly

3.10 Other embargo period/comments

Q 3.5 is unclear. Green OA might increase access but could damage the underlying system of peer review and quality assurance, and be self-defeating. Q 3.9 implies that the EU will recommend OA after an embargo period. LSPs need time to recover costs for services and technological development for scientific publications. Without input from LSPs, the EU should not make recommendations in this area.

4. Access to digital scientific information (including open access): research data

4.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "generally speaking, there is NO access problem to research data in Europe"?	disagree
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4.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to enhancing access to research data?

Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to research data	no opinion
Lack of funding to develop and maintain the necessary data infrastructures	very important
Insufficient credit given to researchers making research data available/lack of incentives	very important
Lack of mandates to deposit research data	no opinion
Lack of data management requirements in research projects	no opinion
Confidentiality/privacy issues	no opinion

4.3 Comments

Research data in many areas of fundamental physics is freely available (e.g. particle physics, astrophysics...). However, access to data has been highlighted as a problem.

4.4 Do you think that research data that is publicly available and that results from PUBLIC funding should, as a matter of principle, be available for re-use and free of charge on the internet?	disagree
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<p>4.5 Comments</p> <p>Qs 3.4 and 4.4 address access to scientific publications by the general public rather than access by researchers. LSPs in physics make scientific research available to researchers. LSPs in physics e.g. (IOP/IOPP, EDPS/SFP, SIF, EPL) provide free access to their content to developing countries. Moreover, any surplus from publishing activities goes to the community through the learned societies.</p>
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4.6 Do you think that research data that is publicly available and that results from PARTLY PUBLIC AND PARTLY PRIVATE funding should, as a matter of principle, be available for re-use and free of charge on the internet?	disagree
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4.7 Comments

5. Preservation of digital scientific information

5.1 Do you agree with the following statement: "Generally speaking, the issue of preservation of scientific information is at present sufficiently addressed"?	agree
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5.2 Do you agree with the following statements regarding potential barriers to enhancing preservation of scientific information in the digital age?

It is not always clear which scientific information should be preserved	agree
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It is not always clear who is responsible for preserving scientific information (research organisations, libraries, governments?)	agree
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There is no harmonised approach to legal deposit (legal requirement that copies of publications be submitted to a repository, usually a library)	no opinion
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Funding for preservation is inadequate	no opinion
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The quality and interoperability of repositories need to be further developed	agree
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5.3 Comments

6. Comments

6.1 Please provide any further comments or inputs in the space below.

The questionnaire throughout shows a very limited range of activities for the EU. It does not distinguish between access to scientific information for researchers and for the general public. Qs 3.7 and 3.9 in particular should not be used as an opinion poll to validate EU policies. Any policies and recommendations need be proposed by a high level working group with representatives from LSPs.

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