

Envisioning the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities

The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge has been declared 22. Oct. 2003 and up to the present day has been signed by 549 signatories.

The Berlin Declaration states the goal:

„Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society. New possibilities of knowledge dissemination not only through the classical form but also and increasingly through the open access paradigm via the Internet have to be supported. We define open access as a comprehensive source of human knowledge and cultural heritage that has been approved by the scientific community.

In order to realize the vision of a global and accessible representation of knowledge, the future Web has to be sustainable, interactive, and transparent. Content and software tools must be openly accessible and compatible.“

Supporting the transition to the Electronic Open Access Paradigm, the Berlin Declaration asks for progress in

„encouraging our researchers/grant recipients to publish their work according to the principles of the open access paradigm.

encouraging the holders of cultural heritage to support open access by providing their resources on the Internet.

developing means and ways to evaluate open access contributions and online journals in order to maintain the standards of quality assurance and good scientific practice.

advocating that open access publication be recognized in promotion and tenure evaluation.

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.“

The road map for its realization follows a threefold path:

„increase the support for and interoperability of OA repositories for scholarly materials, while reducing and where possible eliminating embargoes, and improving the ability to re-use works;

support new and innovative OA publishing models that meet the highest possible scholarly standards, and invest into a publication infrastructure optimised for the needs of research and scholarship; and

cooperate with one another to ensure a smooth transition to a stable and functioning, truly open scholarly publishing system, including access to scholarly source and cultural heritage data, where the full text of every research work is open immediately upon publication.“

Edition Topoi is the integrated publication platform of the Excellence Cluster 264 Topoi. It intends to push the possibilities of scholarly open access publications to new levels. Traditional high quality print with simultaneous digital open access publications merges with digital data publications in the humanities. Still, computational access to fast growing digital resources can be improved. Publications will link to supporting evidence in world wide digital archives. Scholarly research shall be able to evaluate digital objects from a global network of data and resources.

Mission Statement 2016

This mission statement aims to encourage the scholarly world to open up its digital repositories to interoperability and computational access.

Research data like digitized texts, images, 3D models or database content should be long-term archived and quality assured, individually referable, citable, computationally accessible and processable.