On-line survey on scientific information in the digital age

In late 2011, the European Commission intends to adopt a Communication and Recommendation on access to and preservation of digital scientific information. This initiative builds on earlier policy developments in this area, and is being developed within the policy contexts of the EU Flagship Initiatives Innovation Union and Digital Agenda for Europe, and of the push for improved knowledge circulation in the European Research Area.

The Communication will take stock of the developments in the area of scientific information, and set out the actions that the Commission intends to take on open access to publications and data in the context of research projects funded by the Union budget. The Recommendation will detail specific actions to be taken at Member State level.

Consultation of interested parties forms part of the policy process. The purpose of this open consultation is to gather information from as many sources as possible, including governments, research institutions and universities, libraries, scientific publishers, research funding organisations, businesses, individual researchers, and other interested parties on their views on scientific information in the digital age. The consultation will feed into the development of possible policy options to be considered, and will contribute to the ex-ante impact assessment that will be carried out.

The consultation is set up as follows:

1. The respondent

2. What role for Europe?

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

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

5. Preservation of digital scientific information

6. Comments

It will take you approximately 15 minutes to complete the survey. The consultation will close on 9 September 2011.

Results will be published on the Commission's website, including a list of respondents (without e-mail addresses). Regarding personal data protection, please also refer to the European Commission's legal notice: http://ec.europa.eu/geninfo/legal_notices_en.htm.

The Commission thanks you in advance for your collaboration and valuable input.

Definitions:

In this questionnaire, "scientific information" refers to both 1) scientific (and scholarly, academic) publications published in peer-reviewed journals and 2) research data.

"Research data" or "data" may be numerical/quantitative, descriptive/qualitative or visual, raw or analysed, experimental or observational. Examples are digitised primary research data, photographs and images, films, etc.

"Open access" refers to access over the internet that is free of charge for the reader.

"Preservation" refers to policies, strategies and actions that ensure permanent access to digital content over time.

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):* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ National government
- ○ Regional or local government
- ○ Research funding organisation
- ○ University/research institute
- ○ Library
- ○ Publisher
- ○ International organisation
- ○ Individual researcher
- ○ Citizen
- ○ Other

Other (please specify): (optional)
(maximum 50 characters)

If you answered "national government", of which country? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ Austria
- ○ Belgium
- ○ Bulgaria
- ○ Cyprus
- ○ Czech Republic
- ○ Denmark
- ○ Estonia
- ○ Finland
- ○ France
- ○ Germany
- ○ Greece
- ○ Hungary
- ○ Ireland

- ○ Italy
- ○ Latvia
- ○ Lithuania
- ○ Luxembourg
- ○ Malta
- ○ Netherlands
- ○ Poland
- ○ Portugal
- ○ Romania
- ○ Slovakia
- ○ Slovenia
- ○ Spain
- ○ Sweden
- ○ United Kingdom
- ○ Other

Other (please specify): (optional)
(maximum 250 characters)

If you answered "regional or local government", of which country? (optional): (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ Austria
- ○ Belgium
- ○ Bulgaria
- ○ Cyprus
- ○ Czech Republic
- ○ Denmark
- ○ Estonia
- ○ Finland
- ○ France
- ○ Germany
- ○ Greece
- ○ Hungary
- ○ Ireland

- ○ Italy
- ○ Latvia
- ○ Lithuania
- ○ Luxembourg
- ○ Malta
- ○ Netherlands
- ○ Poland
- ○ Portugal
- ○ Romania
- ○ Slovakia
- ○ Slovenia
- ○ Spain
- ○ Sweden
- ○ United Kingdom
- ○ Other

Other (please specify):* (compulsory)
(between 2 and 50 characters)

1.2 Please provide your name (will be published):* (compulsory)
(between 1 and 100 characters)

1.3 Please provide your e-mail address (will not be published):* (compulsory)
(between 5 and 100 characters)

1.4 Please provide the name of your organisation (if you are responding as a citizen, enter "citizen"):* (compulsory)
(between 2 and 100 characters)

1.5 Please provide your country of residence / establishment:* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ Austria
- ○ Belgium
- ○ Bulgaria

- ○ Cyprus
- ○ Czech Republic
- ○ Denmark
- ○ Estonia
- ○ Finland
- ○ France
- ○ Germany
- ○ Greece
- ○ Hungary
- ○ Ireland
- ○ Italy
- ○ Latvia
- ○ Lithuania
- ○ Luxembourg
- ○ Malta
- ○ Netherlands
- ○ Poland
- ○ Portugal
- ○ Romania
- ○ Slovakia
- ○ Slovenia
- ○ Spain

○ Sweden

○ United Kingdom

○ Other

Other country of residence/establishment (please specify):* (compulsory)
(between 2 and 50 characters)

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)?

	agree strongly	agree	no opinion	disagree	disagree strongly
Policy formulation at European level on access and preservation issues optional	○	○	○	○	○
Co-ordinating existing initiatives in EU Member States optional	○	○	○	○	○
Supporting the development of a European network of repositories (online archives) optional	○	○	○	○	○
Encourage universities, libraries, funding bodies, etc., to implement specific actions optional	○	○	○	○	○

2.2 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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"? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

3.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to access to scientific publications?

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

3.3 Comments (optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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)? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

3.5 Do you think that open access can increase access to and dissemination of scientific publications? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree

○ no opinion

○ disagree

○ disagree strongly

3.6 Do you think that open access to scientific publications can co-exist with the traditional scientific publication system? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

○ agree strongly

○ agree

○ no opinion

○ disagree

○ disagree strongly

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 publication in open access journals for a fee ("gold open access").

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):

	1	2	3	4
Open access publishing (author-pays model/"gold open access") optional	○	○	○	○
Self-archiving ("green open access") optional	○	○	○	○
A combination of self-archiving and open access publishing optional	○	○	○	○
Funded conversion of traditional subscription-based journals to open access journals optional	○	○	○	○

3.8 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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?

	agree strongly	agree	no opinion	disagree	disagree strongly
18 months optional	○	○	○	○	○
12 months optional	○	○	○	○	○
9 months optional	○	○	○	○	○
6 months optional	○	○	○	○	○

3.10 Other embargo period/comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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"? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

4.2 How would you rate the importance of the following potential barriers to enhancing access to research data?

	very important	important	no opinion	not very important	not important at all
Insufficient national/regional strategies/policies on access to research data optional	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of funding to develop and maintain the necessary data infrastructures optional	○	○	○	○	○
Insufficient credit given to researchers making research data available/lack of incentives optional	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of mandates to deposit research data optional	○	○	○	○	○
Lack of data management requirements in research projects optional	○	○	○	○	○
Confidentiality/privacy issues optional	○	○	○	○	○

4.3 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

4.5 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

4.7 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

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"? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- ○ agree strongly
- ○ agree
- ○ no opinion
- ○ disagree
- ○ disagree strongly

5.2 Do you agree with the following statements regarding potential barriers to enhancing preservation of scientific information in the digital age?

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

need to be further developed optional					

5.3 Comments

(optional)
(maximum 400 characters)

6. Comments

6.1 Please provide any further comments or inputs in the space below. (optional)
(maximum 600 characters)