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# **Scientific Publication in the European Research Area: moving towards change**

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**CERN meeting “Establishing a sponsoring  
Consortium for Open Access publishing in particle physics”**

**3 November 2006, Geneva**





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# Outline

- 1. Scientific publication and the European Research Area**
- 2. European Commission initiatives**
- 3. SCOAP<sup>3</sup>**
- 4. Conclusions**





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# Scientific publication and the ERA (1)

## Scientific publication trends

- **Digital revolution: access, dissemination and preservation issues**
- **Scientific publication market trends<sup>1</sup>: concentration, rising journal prices, bundling**
- **Debate on publishing models: reader-pay v. author-pay**
- **Open Access movement**
- **Sociology of scientific careers: “publish or perish” and impact factor imperatives dominate research careers and influence funding body decisions**

<sup>1</sup> cf. *Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe.*





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# Scientific publication and the ERA (2)

## Importance of the scientific publication system for research in general

- **Determines access to and dissemination of research results, which form the basis for future research**
- **Contains certification and quality assurance mechanisms (peer review)**
- **Contains unwritten rules about scientific careers**
- **Influences resource allocation by funding bodies (impact factor, publication lists)**
- **Establishes preservation and archiving practices**





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# Scientific publication and the ERA (3)

## Foundations of EU research policy

- **Lisbon Agenda (2000, 2005 “re-launch”):**  
**EU “to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world” by 2010 (March 2000 Presidency Conclusions)**
- **European Research Area (ERA) (2000):**  
**“Internal market” for research: free movement of knowledge, researchers, and technology**  
**Restructuring of “European research fabric”, coordination of national research activities**  
**Comprehensive European research policy: research funding, link with EU and national policies**





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# Scientific publication and the ERA (4)

## Importance of the scientific publication system for EU research policy

- **A healthy scientific publication system stimulates research innovation and excellence, and supports the development of the European Research Area**
  - **Support for Lisbon Agenda goals**
- **“Triple payment” argument: Within publication process, funding bodies pay for:**
  - 1) researchers’ salaries**
  - 2) salaries of researchers conducting peer review**
  - 3) journal subscriptions (e.g. library funding)**





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# Scientific publication and the ERA (5)

From the EU research policy perspective, there  
is a need ...

- to improve return on research funding bodies' investment
- for public debate on the current publication system with the goal of developing ways to improve access and dissemination
- for investigation of the connection between the scientific publishing/career system and research excellence
- to exploit the opportunities offered by the digital revolution while taking into account the challenges it poses







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# European Commission Initiatives (1)

## Roles of the European Commission

- **Policy-making body: implementing the Lisbon agenda**
- **Research funding body: setting access and dissemination rules for the Framework Programme**
- **Supporting body: sustaining accompanying measures and investigation**





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# European Commission Initiatives (2)

## Policy-making body: implementing the Lisbon agenda

- **Research policy focus**

**Scientific publishing as a key issue for the European Research Area**

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3184](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3184)

- **Information society focus**

**i2010 Digital Libraries Initiative**

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm)





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# European Commission Initiatives (3)

## Research policy focus: launching a debate on scientific publishing

- **2006 Publication of *Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe* (Commissioned by Research Directorate-General)**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/scientific-publication-study_en.pdf)
- **31 March–15 June 2006: public consultation on results and recommendations of Study**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3185](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3185)
- **October 2006: Publication of synthesis and individual responses to public consultation**  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document\\_library/pdf\\_06/synthesis-consultation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/synthesis-consultation_en.pdf)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page\\_en.cfm?id=3186](http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/page_en.cfm?id=3186)





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# European Commission Initiatives (4)

*“Study on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe”*

- **Goals:** assess evolution of scientific publication market and make policy recommendations
- **Methodology:** Literature survey, economic analysis, stakeholder consultation
- **Results:** oligopoly, steep price increase (esp. 1975-1995), bundling strategies, reader-pay model dominant, but experiments with new models, new funding body policies
- **Recommendations on “access issues”, “market” and “follow-up”**





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# European Commission Initiatives (5)

## Public consultation on Study: key points

- **170 responses from research community and academic organisations (95), libraries/information organisations (58), and publishers (17)**
- **Main topics addressed: access issues, quality issues, preservation issues, role of public bodies and funding**
- **Support by research and library communities for recommendations dealing with access; criticism by publishers**
- **Respondents underline the importance of long-term preservation and of enabling interoperability**





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# European Commission Initiatives (6)

## Research policy focus: continuing the debate on the scientific publication system

- **Communication on information society and research policy aspects of scientific information (Dec. 2006/Jan. 2007)**
- **Brussels, 15-16 February 2007: conference on information society and research aspects of scientific information. Programme and information available Nov. 2006**
- **Ongoing debate through Scientific Publications community in SINAPSE (Scientific InformAtion for Policy Support in Europe) <http://ec.europa.eu/sinapse/sinapse/index.cfm>**
- **As of 2007: debate at Member State level**





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# European Commission Initiatives (7)

## Research funding body

- **European Commission can set rules on access and dissemination for research funded under the Framework Programme**
- **Opportunity through changeover from FP6 (2002-2006) to FP7 (2007-2013)**
- **“Special clause” requiring deposit in open repositories of research results in FP7 grant agreements?**
- **European Research Council: a new research funding actor**







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# European Commission Initiatives (8)

## Supporting body: sustaining accompanying measures and investigation

- **E-Infrastructure programme: provision of computer and communications infrastructures of the highest quality and performance to Europe's researchers**

<http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/rn/home.html>

- **Science in Society programme: (planned) funding of research on**
  - **scientific publication system and research excellence (sociological/science studies perspective)**
  - **societal aspects of intellectual property rights**





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## SCOAP<sup>3</sup>

### “Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics” (SCOAP<sup>3</sup>)

- **In light of above, European Commission is favourable to experimentation with new publishing models such as SCOAP<sup>3</sup>**
- **Uniqueness of discipline of particle physics**
- **CERN perceived as pioneer of new publishing paradigm**
- **SCOAP<sup>3</sup> seen as pilot project for future developments in scientific publishing**
- **Research funding bodies stand to learn from CERN’s experience**





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# Conclusions

**Need to improve access to and dissemination of research results to increase cost-effectiveness of EU research strategy**



- **Path towards innovation in scientific publishing delicate, but unavoidable; opportunities should be welcomed**
- **Wind of change and possibility to experiment with new models**
- **SCOAP<sup>3</sup> perceived as an original initiative that will provide valuable experience and enrich debate**

- **The European Commission strives for balance between fostering the competitiveness of European industry and ensuring the openness of science and wide dissemination of research results.**
- **Policy decisions need time to mature.**





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