

# Scientific information in the digital age:

Access, dissemination, preservation

Javier Hernández-Ros  
European Commission

DG Information Society and Media



## ***Scientific information in the digital age***

- Commission Communication on scientific information in the digital age, 14 February 2007
- Council Conclusions, November 2008
- Comes from two policy strands: digital libraries initiative, research policy
- Deals with two key issues:
  - access to scientific information
  - preservation of scientific information



## ***A challenge to traditional models***

- Open access movement (Berlin declaration, OA mandates – ERC, EU Universities recommendations), EUROHORCS
- New business models coming up (author pays, OAP by subscription, OA sponsoring ...)
- Deposit in open repositories
  - Institution based or topic based
  - Pre-print vs. post-print
  - Embargo period
- Initiatives by funding bodies (Europe and US)
  - Effects on cross-border research collaboration?



## ***A heated debate...***

Those who advocate open access:

- Publicly funded research results should be publicly available. Triple payment argument.
- Beneficial to the research system
- Prices have gone up fast: this has caused an access problem

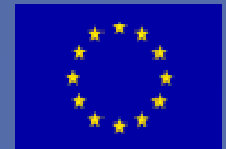
Publishers:

- Publishing has a cost
- The present system is efficient
- No undue government intervention that puts the peer review system at risk



## ***Underlying issues***

- Financial
  - Who pays? Gold and/or green? New models (OAP, OA sponsorship, etc.)?
- Organisational
  - Which infrastructure of repositories? What would they collect and preserve? Who is responsible for filling the repositories?
- Legal
  - Way in which researchers exercise their copyrights: transfer copyright? Licensing?
- Technical
  - Open standards, interoperability, new search tools, data mining, re-use
- How can we make the most of all actors: scientific organisations, libraries, publishers ?



## ***What will the Commission do?***

- Institutional debate + discussions with stakeholders to arrive at a shared vision
- Actions through funding programmes
  - Research on digital preservation
  - Data repositories
  - *eContentplus* programme (PEER, NEEO)
  - New paradigms
- OA in EU funded research
  - ‘Author pays’ publishing as eligible costs
  - Experiments on publication in open repositories in specific programmes

