Open Access to research: benefits and policy

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Open Access –
Why is it best for research?

- Research moves faster and more efficiently
- Greater visibility and impact
- Better monitoring, assessment and evaluation of research
- Enables new semantic technologies (text-mining and data-mining)
- Publicly-funded research should be freely available to the ‘public’
Why Open Access is important: some views

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoNS0-YkZk
Authors and Open Access

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Author advantages from Open Access

- Visibility
- Usage
- Impact
- Personal profiling and marketing
- Research advantages
An author’s own testimony on open access visibility

“Self-archiving in the PhilSci Archive has given instant world-wide visibility to my work. As a result, I was invited to submit papers to refereed international conferences/journals and got them accepted.”
“There is no doubt in my mind that ePrints will have improved things – especially in developing countries such as Malaysia … many more access my papers who wouldn’t have thought of contacting me personally in the ‘old’ days.

While this may … increase … citations, the most important thing … is that at least these people can find out more about what others have done…”
Researchers speak

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qwzeYaNuMQ

Video about ORBi: the Open Access repository at the University of Liege, Belgium
Other beneficiaries
PubMed Central

- 2 million full-text articles
- 420,000 unique users per day
- 25% universities
- 17% companies
- 18% government and others
- 40% citizens

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Which kinds of businesses could benefit from your work?

- Healthcare services
- Civil engineers
- IT companies
- Construction companies
- Dentists
- Accountancy firms
- Archaeology services
- Horticulturalists
- Social service firms
- Consultancies, etc
Small/medium companies in Denmark

- Access to research articles is very/extremely important (48%)
- 79% have access difficulties
- Difficulties in searching/accessing articles cost €73m per year to researchers in Danish firms
- Product development would be delayed or abandoned without access to research articles
- Value of delays, in lost sales of new products, is around €4.8m per firm
EU CIS studies

Community Innovation Statistics

Weak link between innovative enterprises and public research institutes/universities

This report puts the spotlight on two different facets of innovation among those screened by the Fourth Community Innovation Survey (CIS 4): the sources of information that are highly important for innovation, and the types of partners with which innovative enterprises cooperate.

The outcome for both aspects is similar: the link between publicly financed science and innovative industry is rather weak. Institutional sources are less frequently consulted than internal or market sources; and innovative enterprises find cooperation partners more easily among suppliers or customers than in universities or public research institutes.
Figure 1: Sources of information identified by enterprises as highly important for the enterprise's innovation activities, as a percentage of innovative enterprises, EU-27 average

- Within the enterprise or enterprise group: 47.4%
- Clients or customers: 27.2%
- Suppliers of equipment, materials, components or software: 23.9%
- Competitors or other enterprises of the same sector: 11.6%
- Conferences, trade fairs, exhibitions: 11.2%
- Scientific journals and trade/technical publications: 7.6%
- Consultants, commercial labs or private R&D institutes: 5.5%
- Professional and industry associations: 4.3%
- Universities or other higher education institutes: 3.0%
- Government or public research institutes: 2.0%
Total Research Income: QUT and sector

Data: Tom Cochrane, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, QUT
Dr Evonne Miller  
Senior Lecturer, Design, QUT

“Just last week, the General Manager of Sustainable Development from an Australian rural industry called me – based on reading one of my research papers in ePrints. He loved what he read ..... and we are now in discussion about how we can help them measure their industry’s social impacts.”
The case for Open Access for a research institution

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=McTcqcrZMuA#
Open Access policies

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Latest policy developments

- World Bank becomes an Open Access publisher
- UNESCO publishes its Open Access policy guidelines
- European Commission has Open Access as a condition for funding in its next funding programme (Horizon 2020)
Thank you for listening

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www.sparceurope.org
Resources

General, comprehensive resource on Open Access:

OASIS
(Open Access Scholarly Information Sourcebook)

www.openoasis.org

For policymakers, institutional managers:

EOS
(Enabling Open Scholarship)

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