

Budapest Open Access Initiative

To be useful, research must be used. To be used (read, cited, applied, extended) it must be accessible. There are currently 20,000 peer-reviewed journals of scientific and scholarly research worldwide, publishing over 4 million articles per year, every single one of them given away for free by its researcher-authors and their research-institutions, with the sole goal of maximizing their uptake and usage by further researchers, and hence their impact on worldwide research, to the benefit of learning and of humanity.

Yet access to those 4 million annual research articles can only be had for a fee. Hence they are accessible only to the lucky researchers at that minority of the world's research institutions that can pay for them. And even the wealthiest of these institutions can only afford a small and shrinking proportion of those annual 20,000 journals.

The Budapest Open Access Initiative is dedicated to freeing online access to this all-important literature, now that open access has at long last become possible, by

- (I) providing universities with the means of freeing online access to their own annual peer-reviewed research output (as published in the 20,000 established journals) through institutional self-archiving, as well as by**
- (II) providing support for new alternative journals that offer open online access to their full text contents directly (and for established journals that are committed to making the transition to offering open full-text access online).**

We expect to gather a large number of signatures from individuals and organizations. We expect that each signatory will work to advance this cause in the ways that they can. We expect to see many more universities create institutional archives for self-archiving and adopt policies encouraging faculty to make their preprints and refereed postprints freely accessible through them. We expect to see new journals in every field committed to open access. We expect to raise a significant amount of money to expand the scope of self-archiving, to launch new open-access journals, and to convert existing journals willing to adopt open access. We expect to see a steady growth in the open-access portion of the peer-reviewed research literature. We expect that younger scholars will enter the academy expecting open access as a matter of course, both for their own writings and the writings they wish to read for their research. We expect that taxpayers will demand open access to research funded by the government. We expect that the beneficiaries of research, such as medical patients, will demand the removal of unnecessary and artificial barriers to research so that the contributions to knowledge freely donated by their authors will be freely available for use by researchers everywhere.

For further information and for signing the Budapest Open Access Initiative please visit:

<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>