



European University Association Spring Conference, University of Barcelona

EUA urges universities to develop clear strategies to advance open-access of research results

28th March 2008. Universities need to do more to develop institutional policies and strategies that increase access to their peer-reviewed research results to the widest range of users, to maximise the impact and visibility of university research.

This is one of the key recommendations published today by the European University Association's (EUA) Working Group on Open Access, at the beginning of the **EUA Spring Conference taking place this week at the University of Barcelona (27-29 march 2008)**. The EUA, which brings together 800 universities and national rector's conferences across Europe, has published these recommendations to raise awareness of the importance of the open access issue within the university community, both in terms of its impact upon the research process but also its financial implications for university libraries.

EUA is recommending that universities across Europe set up an 'institutional repository' (or take part in a shared repository) as a key first step to achieving this goal. These repositories should be established and managed according to current best practices and that policies developed by universities should ensure that researchers deposit their publications in the repository on acceptance of publication. Embargoes should only apply to the date of open access provision and not the date of deposit.

University policies should also take better account of copyright and the institutional intellectual property rights (IPR) management. The working group stresses that it should be the responsibility of the university to inform faculty about IPR and copyright management in order to ensure wider sharing and re-use of digital research content. University management should also explore how further resources can be found to support researchers under the emerging 'author pays' model.

The recommendations were published following a meeting of the governing Council of the European University Association, which took place before the opening of the EUA Spring Conference at the University of Barcelona. The working group's recommendations are based on the core premises: the university's role and responsibility as guardian of research knowledge as a "public good" and that the results of publicly funded research should be publicly available as soon as possible; and that quality assurance peer review processes are pre-conditions for scholarly publishing.

To receive a full copy of the EUA Open Access recommendations please email Andrew Miller (please see contact details below)

The three-day European University Association (EUA) Conference, hosted by the University of Barcelona, will tackle the theme: The Governance of European Universities post 2010: Enhancing Institutional Mission and Profiles. More than 350 university leaders, policy makers and higher education experts will gather at the university this week.

To find out more about the conference, please visit: <http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=572>

The European University Association (EUA), as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rector's conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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