



RESEARCH PAPERS IN REPOSITORIES : POLICY AND ACTION

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WHY DO WE NEED POLICY DECISIONS?

- Although it is to authors' benefit to deposit their research papers in repositories, the benefits are long-term and have to compete with the immediacy of pressure upon authors' time and concerns about their future funding.
- If institutions are to realise the benefits from repositories (e.g. as a showcase) the content needs to be as near complete as possible.
- If society is to realise the benefits from access to repository content, the content needs to be as near complete as possible.
- So to achieve as close to 100% repository deposit as possible, funding bodies and institutions need to take action to mandate / strongly encourage their grantees / employees to deposit their research papers.

SOME FUNDING AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS *DO* NOW REQUIRE OR STRONGLY ENCOURAGE DEPOSIT IN A REPOSITORY

- Five out of seven UK Research Councils
- The Wellcome Trust and other bodies funding UK PubMedCentral (e.g. the Department of Health)
- A small number of UK universities
- A relatively (to the potential number) small number of universities and funding agencies in other countries
- The European Commission likely to mandate for the research it funds
- *Where there is a mandate repository deposit is growing*
- *BUT most of these policies are of recent adoption and funding agencies have not decided whether or how to enforce them if authors do not comply.*
- *AND Stevan Harnad (Peter Suber's blog 1/4/07) only finds 23 self-archiving mandates adopted and 6 more proposed worldwide*

WHAT CAN WE DO TO ENABLE REPOSITORY DEPOSIT TO GROW?

- Publicise success stories
- Write papers for university committees identifying the benefits of repository deposit
- Find researchers in the university who will act as champions of repository deposit (other researchers will listen to them)
- Find researchers within the university who act as editors of journals and encourage them to make publishers more-supportive
- Reassure authors and publishers that support for repository deposit will not put publishers out of business
- Save authors' time by making repository deposit as easy as possible
- *The actions above may or may not lead to a university mandate but they will (in time) achieve cultural change (the big barrier).*