

What does DRIVER offer?

DRIVER provides a unified approach and is leading the way as the largest initiative of its kind in helping to enhance repository development worldwide.

Even where regional networks and local projects exist within a country there is often no single online website available to view repository developments within that country.

DRIVER offers the DRIVER Wiki as a common space where information on all Open Access and repository projects and groups can be found and continually updated. Repository managers will benefit from the broad range of experiences available through the DRIVER Mentor service, accessible through the DRIVER support website.

The DRIVER Search Service

The DRIVER search service provides sophisticated searching, for example or location-specific searches, a feature often raised as a key need of academics using open access materials.

DRIVER Search will provide searches of full-text records only, a feature not currently available from existing services such as OALster or Google Scholar.

The Future for DRIVER

The initial phase of DRIVER focused on the support of institutional repositories and textual content in repositories. DRIVER II follows on from this and is funded under the Seventh Framework Programme.

In DRIVER-II, subject communities will feature more prominently in the project and DRIVER technical developments will focus on the development and enhancement of services for specific communities. In DRIVER-II, the technical focus will expand from the management of textual content in repositories to also include the management of complex objects such as data and multimedia. DRIVER's original partnership of 10 European partners which will expand to 13 with a further 6 additional partners to join later.



www.driver-community.eu

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- **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece**
- **Bielefeld University, Germany**
- **Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche, Italy**
- **STICHTING SURF, Netherlands**
- **SHERPA, University of Nottingham, UK**
- **Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique, France**
- **UKOLN, University of Bath, UK**
- **Uniwersytet Warszawski, Poland**
- **Universiteit Gent, Belgium**
- **Goettingen University, Germany**



**Information
for
Funding Agencies**



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Introduction

“The benefits of research are derived principally from access to research results.”
Wellcome Trust *

The current system of academic publication developed as a means to disseminate the findings of research. However, this system can hamper the very process it was set up to serve, with access to articles being limited by publishers to only those who can afford to subscribe.

Major funders such as the Wellcome Trust state that society as a whole suffers if access to scientific results is restricted. Electronic archiving enables very speedy access to articles and removes the costs associated with delays in access to research outputs*.

Open Access

“Open-access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge.”
Peter Suber**

European Commissioner Janez Potocnik has stated that from a research funding body's viewpoint, there is room to improve the impact of research on society and the development of knowledge.***

Open Access (OA) can make the researcher's impact more effective by making it easier to find and maximising the usage of that research.

*Models in Scientific Research Publishing
A report commissioned by the Wellcome Trust

**www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/overview.htm

*** Opening address at the conference on 'Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area: Access, Dissemination and Preservation in the Digital Age', Brussels, 15&16 February 2007

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What are Institutional Repositories?

Authors deposit copies of their finished articles in open access repositories that are maintained by their research institution. These copies are in addition to publishing in research journals. Permission to archive is subject to publisher's copyright but some research funders are making open access to research results a condition of awarding a grant. Full-text articles held in repositories are thus available to anyone via search services such as Google, Yahoo! and others, as well as via specialised search services such as DRIVER.

Benefits for Research

Published material which is Open Access can be freely accessed by anyone in the world via an internet connection. This meets the demand of research funders for research impact and hence, value for money. It also meets the needs of authors for increased citations. Peer-review is unaffected.

Much scholarly research is publicly funded; it follows therefore that the results of this research should be available to the public. At present this publicly funded research is locked behind subscription barriers.

It is important to distinguish between OA institutional repositories and OA journals. OA journals use a different business model to traditional journals. While OA journals compete with established subscription based journals, institutional repositories provide a means whereby the traditional publishing model can co-exist with Open Access. There is no evidence that OA repositories decrease journal subscriptions. Therefore Open Access repositories can meet the needs of authors, research funders and their readers.

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Funding and mandates

An increasing number of funding bodies are now mandating open access to the results of research that they fund. In this way, the readership and use of the research outputs is maximised, giving better value for the research money. Examples of these mandates can be found on JULIET (www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet).

Also, a recent EC Green paper* called for investment in developing world class research infrastructures to complement the EU's support of open access infrastructures to stimulate European coordination, development and networking.

DRIVER

Digital Repository Infrastructure
Vision for European Research

This is an EU-funded project which is building a testbed for a future knowledge infrastructure of the European Research Area. DRIVER aims to deliver any form of scientific output, including scientific/technical reports, working papers, pre-prints, articles and original research data to the various users.

DRIVER's aim is to build a virtual, European scale network of existing institutional repositories using technology that will manage the physically distributed repositories as one large scale virtual content resource.

* "The European Research Area: New Perspectives"
ec.europa.eu/research/era/consultation-era_en.html

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