

EPS AND OPEN ACCESS



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- The European Physical Society provides and **INTERNATIONAL FORUM** for physicists and acts as a **FEDERATION** of physical societies.
- The EPS works to **PROMOTE** the interests of **physicists & physics** in Europe and the world over
- EPS activities revolve around the themes of:
 - promoting **EXCELLENT PHYSICS RESEARCH**
 - supplying a **EUROPEAN VIEW** on important questions relating to physics
 - acting as a **CATALYST** bringing together physicists in different countries
 - acting as a **LIAISON** between physicists working in different fields
- The EPS is also a **PUBLISHER** with **EPL, EJP, EPN, e-EPS**



- The renown of EPS prizes & conferences & workshops is very high: these EPS meetings remain as model meetings for the whole international physics community (several thousands of attendants/year)
- The role and position of EPS with respect to other International societies & research/institutional organisations inside Europe (CERN, ESRF ... ESF, Science Europe ...) and outside (APS, AAPPS, AfPS ... IUPAP, ICSU, UNESCO ...) is important
- The opening of EPS relationships towards far Asian countries – e.g. ASEPS (Asia-Europe Physics Summit) on ‘Excellence through Cooperation’ – is indeed an interesting and promising effort



- Activities & studies & surveys of EPS and relative **POSITION STATEMENTS** concerning not only the physicists' community but also the **whole society**, on topics such as:

**EDUCATION – ENERGY – CLIMATE – ENVIRONMENT
GENDER – CAREERS – COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER – ECONOMY - PUBLICATIONS ...**

are **needed** & may be **relevant**

- Some targeted EPS activities:

- ✓ EPS Forum on Physics & Society
- ✓ European Conference on Energy / EPS-SIF Energy School
- ✓ EPS “Bologna Process” survey
- ✓ EPS Young Minds Project
- ✓ EPS Physics for Development Group (SESAME, ICTP ...)
- ✓ etc.



EPS Position Statements/Papers

OPEN ACCESS

A position paper of the EPS



European Physical Society

more than ideas

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Intimate Link

A position paper of the EPS
Environmental Physics Division



European Physical Society

more than ideas

EPS input to EU Science Policy

- European Physical Society Response to the ERA Framework Public Consultation:
'Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area'
- Replies from the European Physical Society to the consultation on the European Commission Green Paper: 'Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding'
- Online survey on: 'Scientific information in the digital age'



(See EPS website 2012: <http://www.eps.org>)

- In its role as a **FEDERATION**, the EPS coordinates **policy initiatives in physics publishing**

APP (ALLIANCE FOR PHYSICS PUBLISHING)

RATIONALE:

- Publishing research results is an **integral part** of scientific research
- Through publications physicists communicate with their peers, **exchanging** their research methods and results
- Publications validate **prior** and **ongoing research**, and spur **new research**
- Publications are essential elements in the **career development** of individual researchers and are used to make decisions regarding **research funding** through the **assessment** of the quality of research (individuals and institutions)



- In 2006 (O. Poulsen - EPS President) the EPS organised a **meeting** of the **stakeholders** in European publishing:
 - ✓ European commercial publishers
 - ✓ European learned society publishers
 - ✓ Representatives from the European Commission (EC)
 - ✓ Representatives from European research institutions
 - ✓ Representatives of EPS Member Societies (MSs)
 - ✓ Scientists
- Purpose of the meeting was to discuss **how to strengthen the European publishing sector**
- Publishing was perceived as having **strategic importance** because it:
 - ✓ demonstrates the **quality** of the research and researchers
 - ✓ sets research **agendas**
 - By strengthening European physics publications, European research will be **valorised**



- The 2006 EPS meeting ended with a call to create a ‘European Publishing Platform’
- In 2007 (F. Wagner – EPS President) the EPS began working on the ‘Alliance for Physics Publishing’ (APP), bringing together EPS MSs journals and ‘harmonize’ them
- Goals and rationale as in 2006
- This effort is ongoing and the EPS will work to increase, in particular, the visibility of:
 - ✓ **EPL** — Euro Physics Letters (EPS, IoP, SFP, SIF)
 - ✓ **EPJ** — The European Physical Journal (SFP, SIF + Springer)
 - ✓ **NJP** — New Journal of Physics (DPG, IoP)
 - ✓ **JPhys** — Journal of Physics (IoP)
- APP meeting on February 3rd, 2012 in Heidelberg with all partners
- Embed a nice **SHOWCASE** of the above journals (highlights & links) in the **EPS website**



EC CONSULTATION

- The EPS coordinated the reply from the European physics community for:
 - ✓ the EC consultation on 'Scientific information in the digital age'
 - ✓ the consultation on the EC Green Paper: 'Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding' (May 2011)
 - ✓ the ERA Framework public consultation: 'Areas of untapped potential for the development of the European Research Area'
- All EPS MSs were consulted and the reply represents the inputs received (see [EPS website](#))





In brief:

- Learned society publishers **lead technological innovation** in publishing and **add value** to publications
- ... But peer review, access, archiving, indexing and quality control have **cost** implications
- Learned societies and publishers are **experimenting** with OA models
(AUTHOR/ORGANIZATION/SPONSOR/CONSORTIUM-PAY, HYBRID ...)
- EU/EC politics should **not** jeopardise the current European publishing sector in terms of financial stability and quality, and should **not** impose restricting rules for authors
- Learned society publishers need to be included in the EU/EC working groups that **discuss, decide, and implement** policy at the European level

OPEN ACCESS

- The EPS represented the European physics community is drafting the scope and recommendations for **SCOAP3** initiative
- The EPS was represented by C. Montonen of the **task force** on OA publishing in particle physics
(See 2006 <http://scoap3.org/files/er-002632247.pdf>)
- The EPS published a **Position Paper** in 2009 on Open Access as a **first step** towards a **joint** policy
- The guideline of the EPS PP was clearly stated:
OA MODELS NEED TO ENSURE FIRST AND FOREMOST THE QUALITY OF THE SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS



- In the EPS OA PP:
 - 1) Assessment of conditions for top quality scientific publications
 - 2) Identifications of problems
 - 3) Position/Conclusion



1) **CONDITIONS**

- OA should assure **enhanced** visibility and distribution
- Scientific publishing will be **never for free**
- Change of business model does **not** necessarily lead to **lower costs** for production/distribution
- **Peer reviewing** must be guaranteed at the highest level
- Publication of an article must be **independent** of accessibility and form of payment
- **Open archives** for overall searches should be provided
- **Copyright** should be preserved
- **Emerging countries** should be awarded **free access**

2) PROBLEMS

- ... A number of **concerns**, in particular for 'author pay' model
- **Inbuilt conflict**: accepting **fewer** papers gives higher prestige and quality but accepting **more** papers gives more cash flow
- **Risk**: possibility to enhance author/institution' s reputation by commercial means
- Learned society publications **safer** wrt the above



3) POSITION/CONCLUSION

- OA models should fulfil all conditions assessed to ensure **first and foremost** the quality of the scientific publications

BUT (PERSONAL)

- No general agreement reached on EPS PP between MSs
- Too many boundary conditions can render the problem unsolvable
- May be 'access for emerging countries' and 'publishing business model' should be disentangled
- The problem of possible 'double payment' from funding institutions is not solved yet
- Bottom-up or top-down approach?

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Thank you for your attention