

**COMMENTS OF THE SELL MEMBERS ON
“STUDY ON THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION MARKETS IN EUROPE”**

During the 6th meeting of SELL (Southern European Libraries Link, <http://www.heal-link/SELL>) the members discussed the “Study on the economic and technical evaluation of the scientific publication markets in Europe”. After an extensive discussion the members concluded on the following remarks:

Recommendation A1: Guarantee Public Access to Publicly-Funded Research Results Shortly After Publication

Comments:

All members agree that publicly-funded research should be open access. Concerning copyright we agreed on a modified version of the University of California at Berkeley statement (White Paper on Scholarly Communication) as follows:

“Publishers should seek only first publication copyright with request for other rights such as foreign distribution and reprinting made when and as necessary in order to protect the publisher from the risk that publication will be submitted to another journal. Reprints should be immediately available on institutional repositories for EU funded research. Open access maximizes dissemination”

Recommendation A4: Guarantee Perennial Access to Scholarly Journal Digital Archives

Comments:

This statement needs further clarification if the archives will be dark or an ongoing archive that is accessible. There is concern that if a consortium for financial or other reasons cannot continue renewing a license agreement with a given publisher then the consortium runs the risk to have to pay a high access fee, to already bought content, to the publisher. There should be a European Control point where we can access what we have already paid for. National Libraries should not only be dark archives but also give access to right holders. It should be a public concern that information from scientific journals is permanently accessible without any additional cost to institutions that already paid for this information.

Recommendation B1: Promote Pro-Competitive Pricing Strategies

Comments:

Given the commitment of libraries and library consortia to expanding access to information for their users, to charge according to usage is contradictory to this principle.

Pricing models are not to be indicated here because per se the market is changing over time but it should be stressed that scholarly information online must be subjected to the rules of the market and therefore the competition. This can be achieved with transparency of pricing and usage.

Recommendation B2: Scrutinize Future Significant Mergers

Comments:

We fully agree with this statement. Journals' concentration is a major concern.

Recommendation C1: Setting-up an Advisory Committee

Comments:

We believe given the role that consortia play, that consortia from the different EU regions, Nordic, Central, South (SELL) should be represented on the advisory committee

Recommendation B3: Promote the Development of Electronic Publications

Comments:

VAT for scholarly publishing for education and research reasons should be abolished or significantly lowered to be the same as print.

Tax refund is not a good idea, it is going to be difficult to implement in many EU countries. In addition many consortia have problems to find the budget for the additional 20% VAT that is required for electronic publications even if the amount will be refunded later.

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