

Open Access in the UK: a view from the British Library

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What should be 'open' and what does 'open' mean in practice?

Covers many different types of content and materials

- Research articles, conference proceedings, reports, theses, research data, metadata, public sector information

What does 'open' mean in practice?

- Open for free access (read/view/listen)
- Open to re-use and repurpose (download/copy/reformat)
- Open for text and data mining

Recent policy developments – UK and Europe

1. Finch Report recommendations
 - Gold (author/institution pays) for UK public funded research
 - Provision of free access to academic journal content through public library system
 - Supported by Universities Minister
2. EU Commission and UK Research Councils mandates for green OA (institutional and subject repositories)
3. Open Data White paper/ 'Science as an Open Exercise'
 - Research data more easily accessible in re-usable forms
4. EC Public Sector Information Directive

The current open access debate in the UK

Polarisation of views in UK and in BIS

- Importance of UK commercial publishing to UK economy (c.£3bn/pa; employs 30k people)
- Impact of UK publicly funded research outputs (6% of global output)
- Strong opposition from publishers
- Strong support in academic community
- Pro-Open lobby splitting between 'gold' and 'green' models
- Leading universities unhappy about cost of compromise
 - Costs of support for institutional repositories (green OA)
 - Costs of OA publishing through gold OA models
 - Costs of subscriptions to receive overseas materials

What might this mean for The British Library?

Relationship to HE institutional repositories?

- Collect less, link more; national aggregation services

Relationship to public library sector?

- Reduction in demand for document supply services?

Impact on e-legal deposit policies?

- Unable to continue open services

Impact on partnership and funding models

- More difficult to offer attractive partnerships?

Impact on future acquisitions? Role of national bibliography?

- Fragmentation of content – acquire articles, chapters. Will the journal survive? Future of content behind paywalls?

Impact on infrastructure?