



HELMHOLTZ  
GEMEINSCHAFT

The Helmholtz Association is a community of 15 scientific-technical and biological-medical research centres. These centres have been commissioned with pursuing long-term research goals on behalf of the state and society. The Association strives to gain insights and knowledge so that it can help to preserve and improve the foundations of human life. It does this by identifying and working on the grand challenges faced by society, science and industry. Helmholtz Centres perform top-class research in strategic programmes in six core fields: Energy, Earth and Environment, Health, Key Technologies, Structure of Matter, Transport and Space.

With its 15 research centres and annual budget of approx 2.2 billion euros the Helmholtz Association is Germany's largest research institution. The 24 000 employees produce top-rate scientific results in six research fields. The Helmholtz Association identifies and takes on the grand challenges of society, science and the economy, in particular through the investigation of highly complex systems.

**Our Mission ...**

*"The Helmholtz Association aims to contribute significantly to solving the grand challenges which face society in the fields of Energy, Earth and Environment, Health, Key Technologies, Structure of Matter and Transport and Space."*

Professor Dr. Jürgen Mlynek,  
President of the Helmholtz  
Association

**The Helmholtz  
Association of  
German  
Research  
Centres**

# OPEN ACCESS

## Helmholtz Association supports Open Access

The publication of the 'Berlin Declaration' was an important milestone towards making knowledge in the sciences and humanities accessible to all. The 'Berlin Declaration' lays down the principles of Open Access, under which scientific publications should be published in future. This paradigm shift cannot be accomplished immediately, it needs supporting action and education and has a number of legal implications.

The Helmholtz Association of National Research Centres was one of the first signatories of this declaration. The Assembly of Members of the Helmholtz Association has confirmed its commitment and has obliged all its member research centres to implement Open Access in practice, to create awareness for

Open Access among its scientists, and to make Open Access part of the scientific practice in all Helmholtz research centres.

With the introduction of Open Access policies and practices in its research centres the Helmholtz Association of National Research Centres aims to make its publications accessible to a broader scientific audience, broaden dissemination and thus further the scientific discourse.

In addition, the Helmholtz Association endorses the idea of Open Access to data. In this area, the possibilities and limitations will be explored for each of Helmholtz' research fields. Also, it will be discussed if and how data publication can become a type of publication valued as comparable to journal articles.

## Helmholtz Open Access Project

### Creating Awareness

Information events for authors and for decision makers will be held to inform and to educate the scientists at Helmholtz research centres about Open Access. Broad awareness and institutional commitment are first and necessary steps to win acceptance for Open Access publishing. Together with the research centres the project group will develop information material and methods.

### Implementing the Green Way

In this work package the Helmholtz centres will set up institutional repositories for the secondary publication and dissemination of post-prints and assist the authors in preparing their manuscripts for archiving in institutional repositories. The Libraries are seen in a pro-active role for the creation of content for these repositories.

### Supporting the Golden Way

The role of scientific journals often goes beyond the mere publication of scientific articles by providing an editorial frame work to help the reader assess the significance of the published works. Therefore the Helmholtz Association will support the further development and acceptance of Open Access journals by encouraging its scientists to act as authors, reviewers and editors in these journals.

### Creating Access to Data

With the publication of data, the project enters a new terrain. Shortly after the 'Berlin Declaration' was published it was recognised that Open Access should extend all the way from data to knowledge. However, the publication of data as part of standard scientific practice is still in its early stages.



Project Time Line

### Focus for 2006 is on «green»

The 'Green Way' is the term used by the Open Access initiatives to describe the publication of manuscripts on institutional web servers or scientist's private web pages. Many publishers already allow the publication of preprints, peer-reviewed post-prints or final drafts through institutional repositories.

The Helmholtz centres will set up institutional repositories for the secondary publication and dissemination of post-prints and assist the authors in preparing their manuscripts for archiving in institutional repositories. The research centre libraries have been given the task to fill these repositories with content (peer-reviewed papers only) and give authors support in their preparation of the papers for archiving in the repository.

The initial project focus is on the 'Green Way' because here we see the most effective way to increase the impact of our authors' publications by making their works accessible to everybody.

### Creating access to data

A survey of recent literature shows that scientific literature and scientific data are converging. However, the publication of data raises a number of questions and the cultures of data access and data sharing vary significantly from one scientific discipline to another.

What is the licencing situation with respect to data? How should it be changed to accommodate both Open Access and the author's intellectual property rights?

To answer these questions will require more research. The project will also look at the experiences made in different fields, e.g. in the life sciences or in the earth and environmental sciences.

### Project Website

For additional information visit our project website at <http://helmholtz-oa.awi.de> and find out more about Open Access and how to make it part of the scientific work process.