

Open-Access News Around the Net

By the Numbers

As of 30 October 2005, the online directory of open-access journals listed 1868 journals. There were 460 journals searchable at article level and 79,827 articles included in the Directory of Open Access Journals service. In the 30 days preceding these counts, 53 journals were added. A majority (38) have English listed as one of the languages, Spanish was included in 15, Portuguese in eight, French in six, Italian in five, Japanese in three, and German in three.

From the Directory of Open Access Journals,
www.doaj.org

Boston Library Consortium, Inc, Adopts "Agreement to Extend Author's Rights"

The Boston Library Consortium (BLC) board of directors unanimously approved the adoption of the "Agreement to Extend Author's Rights", a document that gives authors and their employing institutions nonexclusive rights to use, distribute, and reproduce material in digital or print form for purposes connected with the author's academic and professional activities. The amendment also supports placement of material in institutional repositories. The agreement, initially developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a consortium member, is available for downloading at the BLC Web site, www.blc.org. The BLC is an association of 19 academic and research libraries in Boston, Massachusetts, and surrounding areas.

From the Boston Library Consortium,
www.blc.org/news/amendment.html

OECD Completes Study on Digital Content in Scientific Publishing

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has completed a study on digital content in scientific publishing (Digital Broadband Content: Scientific Publishing, 21 September 2005), the media industry's fastest-growing sector, with estimated revenue of \$7 billion to \$11 billion in 2004. The OECD study analyzes scientific publishing's new business models—including open-access publishing

on the author-pays model, open-access archives and repositories, and subscription bundling and site licensing—and their impact on science and diffusion of knowledge and the role of governments in enhancing access to publicly funded research. Findings indicate that scientific publishers have invested heavily in online publishing—in 2003, 75% of scholarly journals were available online—and that overall the balance is shifting toward direct access to primary data sources. In addition to urging governments to increase access to publicly funded research to maximize social return on public investments, OECD recommended coordinated efforts at national and international levels.

*From the Organisation for Economic
Co-operation and Development,*
www.oecd.org

The Wellcome Trust Open-Access Mandate Takes Effect

In May 2005, the Wellcome Trust, the largest private funder of medical research in the United Kingdom, announced that from 1 October 2005 all papers from new research projects must be deposited in the US-based PubMed Central or the upcoming UK PubMed Central within 6 months of publication. The move comes as part of a trust drive to push forward open-access publication of scientific literature, making findings freely available to those who want to see them. The trust also announced that from 1 October 2006 all existing grant holders must deposit any future papers produced with trust funding into PubMed Central or UK PubMed Central. The Wellcome Trust policy requires, rather than requests, deposit in an open-access vehicle, it does not permit delays longer than 6 months from the date of publication, and it does not require publisher consent (instead obligating the grantee to make arrangements with the publisher that are consistent with the grant agreement or find another publisher). The Wellcome Trust is the first research-funding agency in the world, private or public, to mandate open access to the publications arising from its research grants, according to

Peter Suber in the *SPARC Newsletter* of 2 October 2005 (issue 90, www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/newsletter/10-02-05.htm).

See www.wellcome.ac.uk/doc_wtd018855.html

American Physical Society Open-Access Online Journal Features Physics Education Research

The journal *Physical Review Special Topics-Physics Education Research* (prst-per.aps.org) began accepting submissions in May 2005. It is cosponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society Forum on Education. The journal will publish an array of experimental and theoretical research on the teaching and learning of physics, including review articles, replication studies, descriptions of new assessment tools, presentation of research techniques, and method comparisons or critiques. It will be distributed free of charge, financed by publication charges, \$700 per article plus \$80 per 125 lines. A fee waiver can be requested.

From APS News, July 2005, Volume 14, No. 7, p 1, "New APS Open-Access Online Journal Features Physics Education Research", by Ernie Tretkoff

PLoS Pathogens Launched

The Public Library of Science (PLOS) 30 September 2005 launched *PLoS Pathogens*

(www.plospathogens.org). The open-access journal is led by Editor-in-Chief John A T Young, a professor in the Infectious Disease Laboratory at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. From molecules to physiology, PLoS Pathogens accepts papers covering bacteria, fungi, parasites, prions, and viruses that contribute to the understanding of the biology of pathogens and pathogen-host interactions.

From the Public Library of Science, www.plos.org

Journal on Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine Launched

The *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* is a new open-access, peer-reviewed online journal published by BioMed Central started in July 2005. The journal accepts manuscripts and reviews based on original interdisciplinary research and studies worldwide on the inextricable relationships between human cultures and nature, traditional environmental and ecologic knowledge, folk and traditional medical knowledge, and their relevance for primary health-care policies in developing countries.

From www.ethnobiomed.com