



DRIVER as a driver for co-operation in Belgium

DRIVER Belgium

(under the auspices of University Library Ghent)

created a momentum to bring the different stakeholders of Open Access in Belgium together. Before, there was no national, nor regional network for repositories.

Challenge How to bring stakeholders together, overcoming language and regional boundaries?

Approach

An informal network of repository managers and technicians was set up for discussion and exchange of information, ideas and best practices.

A website was created to gather information about the Belgian repositories and the outcome of discussions and meetings:
www.driver-repository.be

A "National Conference on Open Access and the impact of Belgian research" was organized Feb. 13th 2007 where different stakeholders, among which the rector of the University of Liège, advocated the advantages of Open Access.

Results

The Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities was signed by:

- 14 Belgian universities
FPMs, FUCAM, FUNDP, FUSAGx, FUSL, KUB, KULeuven, UA, UCL, UGent, UHasselt, ULB, ULg, VUB
- The council of higher education (VHLORA)
- The Flemish Minister of Science and Innovation, Ms. Fientje Moerman
- The Minister of the Walloon Region for New Technologies, Foreign Affairs and Scientific Research, Ms. Marie-Dominique Simonet

Mandates

resulting from the conference

FWO, the Flemish research council, mandated the deposition of publications, resulting from FWO-funded research, in an Open Access repository, one year after publication the latest.

University of Liège mandated that an author has to self-archive the postprint version of the article in the IR, immediately upon acceptance for publication.

Future

Create mandates in other universities.

Formalize the informal network of repositories.

Create a wide user community.

Inform the greater public.