

**Title: Transition dynamics of improving access to research papers**

**Date:** April 2010 – May 2011

**Client:** Research Information Network

**Country / Region:** UK

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A CEPA led a team, including Mark Ware Consulting, produced a report commissioned by the Research Information Network, the Publishing Research Consortium, the Wellcome Trust, Research Libraries UK and JISC on the costs, benefits, opportunities and risks that may arise from improving UK access to research papers. The report has recently been published as an open access paper in *Learned Publishing* (the journal of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers, October 2011).

Scholarly communication is undergoing a revolution, with the principal drivers of change being economic (growth of R&D funding and hence outputs; relative growth of outputs and library budgets; geopolitical shifts; globalisation; pricing) and technological (ICT, especially the Web; and an explosion of data capture and use). These changes have raised access by researchers to historically high levels. But there is a perception that demand remains unfulfilled and access gaps continue; and an increasing interest in possible open access (OA) solutions.

The project provided different constituencies within the scholarly communication system with evidence to understand better the dynamics of the transitions needed to improve access to research articles; and the costs, benefits, opportunities and risks entailed. The project required the development of a number of plausible, five-year scenarios based around different routes to increase access. The scenarios were developed around five routes to access (Gold OA, Green OA, licence extension, delayed access, and transactional).

Each of these routes provided the UK constituencies with different costs and benefits, and relative risks. A key objective for each of the scenarios was to identify the policies and/ or practices that would need to be implemented/ changed in order for it to be achieved.

Part of this work required CEPA to develop a financial model to systematically capture all costs, access levels, benefits and funding flows in the scholarly communication system. In order to ensure the modelling captured all the relevant facets of the access to the scholarly communications model and the benefits and costs associated, CEPA undertook extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. We also conducted two workshop which were used to: (i) validate the modelling and assumptions; and (ii) validate the initial results of the modelling.

**Links:**

- [Research Information Network - Final Report](#)
- [Learned Publishing, 24:247-260, October 2011 - Published Paper](#)