1. INTRODUCTION

The Open Society Institute's Open Access Project builds upon the principles outlined in the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and aims to assist the international effort to make research articles in all academic fields freely available online. To achieve open access, the

1 Paper presented on the 2nd Seminar on Open Access to Scholarly Information, Belgrade 10 November, 2005 held in the National Library of Serbia with support of the eIFL.net
OSI took an interest in the open access movement out of a desire to provide free access to scholarly communications. However, to do this requires that new economic, legal, and funding paradigms be adopted worldwide in order for open access to become a viable alternative to the traditional subscription-based publishing model.

Since the launch of the Budapest Open Access Initiative there has been growing international support for open access. In April 2003, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute held a meeting of research funders in the US which resulted in the Bethesda Statement; the Berlin Declaration on Open Access arose from a meeting of European research funders and universities in October 2003 organized by the Max Planck Society; and the Wellcome’s Trusts’ has developed their own Policy on Open Access. Recently governments have also begun to take an interest in open access out of a desire to ensure that the research which they fund reaches the largest possible audience, as well as a recognition of the waste of public resources which results from the old system in which taxpayers pay once for research and a second time for access to its results. Examples of these governmental initiatives include the Finnish Policy on Open Access, the NIH Policy in the US and the UK Science and Technology Committee’s Enquiry.

Publishers are adopting the open access publishing model and according to the Directory of Open Access Journals (www.doaj.org) there are currently 2028 such journals. BioMed Central (BMC) publishes over 140 open access titles, while the Public Library of Sciences has launched its two flagship journals, PLoS Medicine and PLoS Biology as well as several other titles. In addition, Hindawi Publishing,
Да би помогао пораст свести о отвореном приступу у земљама у развоју и транзицији, OSI је обезбедио финансирање eIFL Open Access Program-a у 2005. Отворени приступ ће омогућити научницима и академској популацији у земљама у развоју и транзицији не само да приступе виталним материјалима потребним за њихова истраживање, већ и да ефикасније допринесу глобалној истраживачкој јединици својим значајним радовима.

Развојем репозиторија са отвореним приступом и подстицањем аутора у тим земљама да објављују своје радове у часописима са отвореним приступом, истраживања спроведене у овим земљамаће бити лакше доступна научницима широм света. Програм за отворени приступ у оквиру eIFL-a обезбеђује обуку и радионице о отвореном приступу у земљама које су чланице eIFL-a и даје подршку изради пилот пројеката за институционалне репозиторије у ограниченој броју земаља.

У 2005-ој, eIFL OA Програм је организовао многе радионице о отвореном приступу, а осим тога, и национални конзорцијуми библиотека у земљама у којима је овај програм активан организовали су мање пратеће активности као резултат ових радионица. Ове почетне активности у свакој земљиће довести до тога да се на националном нивоу усвоји политика обавезног отвореног приступа.

Based in Egypt, publishes 14 open access journals. Many subscription-based publishers are experimenting with the OA publishing model, among them Oxford University Press and Springer.

OSI provided funding for the creation of the previously mentioned DOAJ as well as a Directory of Open Access Repositories, which lists institutional and subject-based repositories as well as the type of content which the repositories contain (i.e. articles, ETDs, conference papers, learning objects, books, etc.).

To help raise awareness of open access in developing and transition countries, OSI provided funding in 2005 to create the eIFL Open Access Program. Open Access will allow scientists and academics in developing and transition countries to not only access the vital material which they need to conduct their research, but will also allow them to more efficiently contribute their important work to the global research community.

By developing Open Access repositories and encouraging authors within these countries to publish their articles in Open Access journals, the research being done in these countries, will be more easily available to scholars throughout the world. Specifically the eIFL Open Access Program provides trainings and workshops on open access within eIFL participating countries, as well as support for the creation of institutional repository pilot projects in a limited number of countries.

In 2005, the eIFL OA Program organized many open access workshops, however apart from the events organized by eIFL itself, the national library consortia in the countries in which the eIFL OA Program is active have organized many follow-up activities as a result of the open access workshops. It is this work at the grass-roots level in each country which will result in the adoption of policies to mandate open access at a national level.
The year kicked off with the eIFL OA Program working with the Lithuanian Research Library Consortia (LMBA) to organize an awareness raising workshop in Lithuania in February targeted at policy makers, scientists, librarians, and information specialists. Due to the interest generated from this workshop, the policy makers asked LMBA to organize a follow-up workshop for vice rectors of the universities in June 2005.

Following on the Open Access workshop organized in November 2003 in Serbia, the KoBSON and the eIFL OA Program organized an Open Access Citation Indexes Seminar in Belgrade in November which was attended by over 150 participants.

Outside the eIFL OA Program, OSI and the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF, the Soros national foundation in Ukraine) organised a large regional conference on Open Access in Kiev in February, and it is planned that the follow up activities will be jointly led by eIFL and IRF. Since the workshop, IRF has continued to advocate for OA and in December the Ukrainian Parliament recommended an Open Access mandate for all publicly-funded research.

With regard to the development of Institutional Repositories, eIFL sponsored the South African Site Licensing Initiative (SASLI) to organize a training workshop on establishing institutional repositories in Pretoria in May. Within South Africa, SASLI has formed an Open Access Advocacy Group called “Sivulile” (which means “to open” in Swahili) which has...
gone on to raise outside funding from UNESCO to hold a specialized workshop on the Greenstone institutional repository software in November.

In addition, the eIFL OA Program participated in the International Conference on Open Access in Developing Countries in September in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The participants drafted the Salvador Declaration on Open Access: the Developing Countries Perspective (http://www.eifl.net/docs/Dcl-Salvador-OpenAccess-en.pdf) which is the first declaration to clearly state how OA can benefit transition and developing countries and provides recommendations on what governments can do to actively support OA.

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