



PRESS RELEASE

Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities signed by the University of Economics, Prague

The University of Economics, Prague signed Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities at Open Access international convention in Prague on 22 October 2012. The event was focused on establishing of a new scientific communication method being the alternative to traditional subscription journals. By signing the document, the university has become the second educational institution in the country to claim officially the unrestricted online access to original scientific research results.

Prague, 24 October 2012

The goal of Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities is to support the Internet as the communication tool of global scientific knowledge, human reflection. Its defined measures should be taken into account by research policy authorities, research institutions, investors, libraries, record offices and museums. Any grant agencies, scientific and academic institutions, record offices may become signatories to the Declaration.

The document follows the content of foregoing initiatives to open access support. It focuses on the open access and extends its definition. The declaration stresses the role of internet within the open access topic. In the Declaration, the Internet is seen as a tool changing the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage, offering the chance to constitute a global and interactive representation of human knowledge, including cultural heritage and the guarantee of worldwide access.

The Declaration consists of several chapters. In the preface, the role of Internet is stressed. Afterwards, the goals are pointed out. The necessity of content and software tools open access is mentioned. The definition of an open access contribution follows. It is defined as original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, source materials, digital representations of pictorial and graphical materials and scholarly multimedia material. The two key conditions, which must be satisfied by the open access contributions, are defined as well.

Last part of the document consists of steps the signatories intend to take to further promote the new open access paradigm.



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The open access to scientific research results is an alternative publishing approach in comparison to subscription journals. The scientific papers are available free in journals (Gold Open Access) or institutions' or industries' repositories (Green Open Access). Full texts of most scientific papers published in VŠE journals are available online for free shortly upon their publishing. „*In the field of semantic web being our team's point of focus, new ideas arise all the time, making the traditional publishing approach outdated. I am glad to have open access journals that reduce the obsolescence. The open access is helpful for postgraduate students too. At the beginning of their studies, they need to do research literature review. Within the process, they benefit from the open access,*“ Vojtěch Svátek, EU projects FP6 a FP7 researcher and guarantor of Applied Informatics branch at the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, the University of Economics, Prague, says.

Jan Mach, Information Support of Study and Research Department manager, describes the Green Open Access from the perspective of VŠE researchers: “*The VŠE Library staff prepares the repository to have the open access to the papers with publishers approval. Thanks to this approach, the authors will increase the accessibility and availability of their research results. We do respect the principle of open and verifiable access to the results of research projects based on public funding.*”

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The University of Economics, Prague (Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze) is the leading university in the field of management and economics in the Czech Republic. The University of Economics, Prague is composed of more than 20,000 students and has six faculties – five in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec in South Bohemia. These include: the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, the Faculty of International Relations, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Statistics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration. The faculty based in Jindřichův Hradec is specialized in management. Graduates of the University of Economics, Prague occupy responsible positions in the private as well as in the public sector. Most of them are employed in the sectors of industry and services, trade, marketing, banking, public administration, accounting, audit, tourism and the field of information technology. Many significant Czech and foreign economists have obtained the University's honoris causa title; for example, the Nobel Prize winner Prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman and Prof. Gary S. Becker. More information at <http://www.vse.cz/index-en.php>.

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