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BOAI Discussion List Launched

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Contributed by:

Peter Suber

Professor of Philosophy

Earlham College

Richmond, Indiana, USA

<peters@earlham.edu>

February 14, 2003, was the first anniversary of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI). The initiative marked the occasion by launching the BOAI Forum, a discussion list moderated by Peter Suber. The BOAI will use the forum to announce new funding programs, publications and news, and hopes that its supporters will use it to share insights, tips, perspectives, and experiences in working for the cause of open access.

The topic at the center of the BOAI and the new forum is open access to peer-reviewed research articles and their preprints. In this context, "open access" means that the articles are available (1) online, (2) free of charge for everyone with an internet connection, (3) with the copyright holder's consent to unrestricted reading, downloading, copying, sharing, storing, printing, searching, linking, and crawling.

Open access in this sense takes two primary forms endorsed by the BOAI: archives and journals. The chief difference between them is that journals perform peer review and archives don't. But this difference affects their costs, which affects the ease with which they may offer open access to their contents. Archives may contain preprints or postprints or both, and may be associated with institutions or disciplines. They can be built with open-source software and hosted by universities at negligible cost. Open-access journals typically let authors retain copyright, and cover the costs of peer review and production by charging a processing fee paid by the author or author's sponsor (university, foundation, government) after an article has been accepted. Because the processing fee covers all the costs of producing and disseminating the article, the journal loses nothing by providing open access to it.

The BOAI Forum welcomes discussion of open access in general, and open-access archives and journals in particular. In the short time since its launch, the forum participants have discussed: open access in developing countries, self-censorship by science journals, Clifford Lynch's recent article on open-access archives, two ways of making distributed archives interoperable, and the IFLA draft [*Manifesto on Open Access to Scholarly Literature and Research*](#)

Documentation. The moderator's opening message explained the purpose of the list and summarized some of the highlights of the BOAI in its first year of life.

Although subscriptions to the forum are limited to those who have signed the BOAI public statement, signing the statement is free of charge, and the archive of postings is readable by non-subscribers.

For further information, see:

BOAI home page

<<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>>.

BOAI Forum home page

<<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/forum.shtml>>.

BOAI Forum archive

<<http://threader.ecs.soton.ac.uk/lists/boaiforum/>>.