

Dear Science and Technology Policy Office,

I would like to take this opportunity to make a short statement on Open Access.

The worth of Open Access becomes immediately recognizable to me locally if I try to access my first two publications - I couldn't at my last institute because they didn't have subscriptions to these journals. My own work - not accessible. I don't even know if I could here - but of course I don't even want to check because it just might frustrate me. I submitted my third paper to an Open Access journal, and had a great experience. Unfortunately, there aren't many of these journals yet in my field, and I'm hoping for strong political support of Open Access.

But apart from that local recognition, it is clear to me that Open Access is the only possible way. This is research paid for by public money, be it German or US money, science doesn't even care about these boundaries. It is public, and I value free access to the knowledge I help or helped piece together a basic human right. I won't even make the argument that it is tax money and should therefore be open - I find that a pathetic argument. It is information we research for the benefit of mankind, and should therefore be freely accessible to everyone on the planet.

Sincerely,
Joerg Rings