2006-2015: celebrating a decade of Open Access policy in the European Commission

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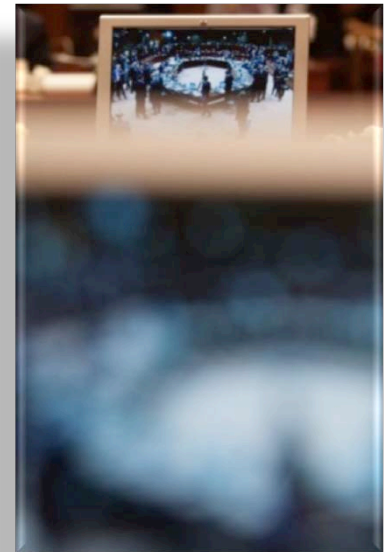
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We have come a long way…

2006-2007	*First sketches*
2008-2009	*Pioneering times*
2010-2011	*Acceleration*
2012	*Taking off*
2013	*Consolidation*
2014-2015	*New territories*

First sketches (2006-2007)

The European Commission and stakeholders

- In 2006, the release of an EC-commissioned **Study** on the economic and technical evolution of the scientific publication markets in Europe is followed by a first **public consultation**
- In 2007, a **conference** 'Scientific Publishing in the European Research Area' is organised and shortly after the Commission adopts **Communication** on 'Scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation'

Member States

- In the same year, led by the Portugal Presidency, EU Member States adopt **Conclusions** on 'Scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation'

First sketches (2006-2007)

European Research Council

- As early as in 2006, the ERC releases the Scientific Council **Statement** on open access and, the following year, it publishes its first Scientific Council **Guidelines** for open access

Projects

- COMMUNIA (*Thematic Network on the Public Domain in the Digital Environment*)
- ELIXIR (*European life science infrastructure for biological information*)

Conclusions from 2006-2007

It started with a study, followed by a consultation to all stakeholders

- We started with a fact-finding exercise and analysis

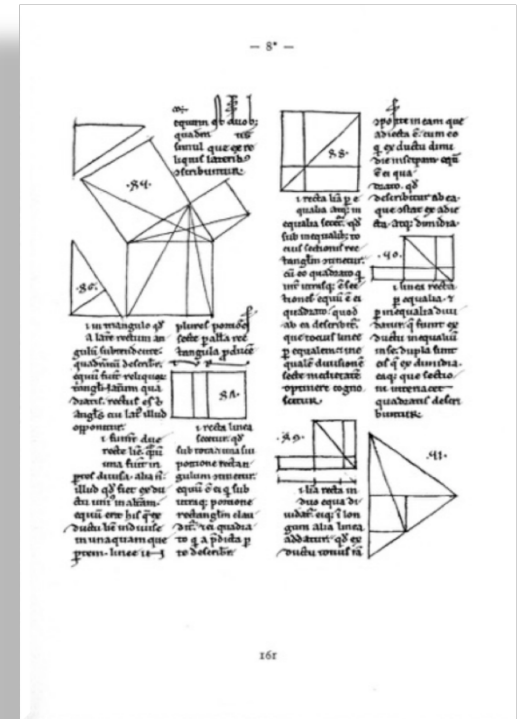**First direct interactions with stakeholders**

- The consultation was validated by a conference and wrapped up by a Communication

Everybody started articulating their own positions

- In particular the European Commission and EU Member States

First FP7 projects on the topic were co-financed

- At the moment, only from the Infrastructure work programme

Pioneering times (2008-2009)

The European Commission and stakeholders

- The Commission launches the **Open Access Pilot in FP7** in 2008
- Together with the German Commission for UNESCO, the Commission publishes an Open Access Handbook
- The Commission organises a Conference 'Working Together to Strengthen Research in Europe – European Research Area' with a session on open access

Member States

- In 2008, led by the Slovenian Presidency, EU Member States adopt **Conclusions** encouraging open access to knowledge and open innovation
- The Commission issues a first **Report** on the situation in Europe, based on a questionnaire to EU Member States

Pioneering times (2008-2009)

Projects

- **OpenAIRE** (*Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe*) as a support to the Open Access Pilot in FP7

- CESSDA (*Council of European Social Science Data Archives*); CLARIN (*Common language resources and technology infrastructure*); DARIAH (*Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts & Humanities*); DRIVER II (*Digital Repository Infrastructure Vision for European Research*); EUROVO-AIDA (*Euro-VO Astronomical Infrastructure for Data Access*); OAPEN (*Open Access Publishing in European Networks*); PARSE.Insight (*Permanent Access to the Records of Science in Europe*); PEER (*Pilot Programme Investigating the Effect of the Deposit of Author Manuscripts on the Ecology of European Research and Publishing*)

- ACUMEN (*Academic Careers Understood through Measurement and Norms*); NECOBELAC (*Network of Collaboration between Europe and Latin American-Caribbean Countries*); SOAP (*Study of Open Access Publishing by Key Stakeholders*)

Conclusions from 2008-2009

We tested waters on our own programme
- Publications only, 7 areas, 'best effort' principle etc.

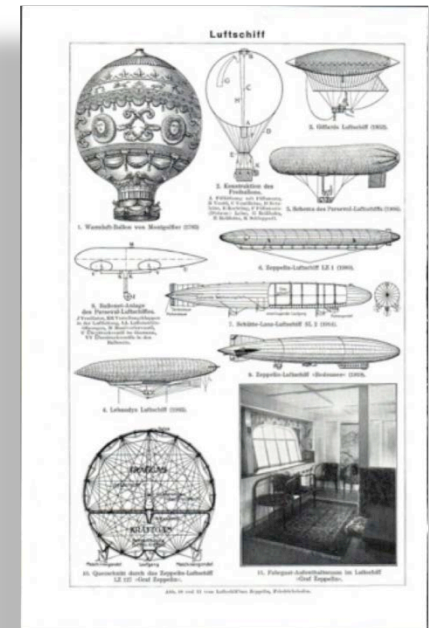**We embedded OA into a bigger policy scheme**
- European Research Area

We became more systematic in our interactions with stakeholders and EU Member States

Everybody reinforced their own positions

We got support from projects (OpenAIRE) and co-finance (many) other
- Not only in Infrastructure work programme

Accelerating (2010-2011)

The European Commission and stakeholders

- The Report 'Riding the Wave' is presented to the Commission by the High Level Expert Group on Scientific Data
- In 2010, a strategic **workshop** on open access and preservation in Europe is held with national experts; it is followed by a second strategic **workshop**, this time with EC-funded projects
- The Commission introduces open access in both the Communication 'A Digital Agenda for Europe' and the Communication 'Innovation Union'
- In 2011, the Commission organises a public **hearing** on access to and preservation of scientific information; this is followed by a second public **consultation** on scientific information in the digital age
- Later in 2011, the Commission clarifies and summarizes its proposal for open access in Horizon 2020

Accelerating (2010-2011)

Member States

- In 2011 the Commission convenes a **meeting** with Member States representatives, immediately after the public hearing.

- The Commission publishes a second **Report** on national Open Access and preservation policies in Europe, based on answers collected from EU Member States

Projects

- APARSEN (*Metadata for preservation, curation and interoperability*); ODE (*Opportunities for Data Exchange*); SISOB (*An Observatorium for Science in Society based in Social Models*)

Conclusions from 2010-2011

We monitored the development of open access in our own funding programme (FP7)

We started preparing next steps (H2020)

We continued to embed OA stronger into policy schemes

We continued to support and encourage dialogues among all interested parties

We developed interest into, and co-financed projects exploring new territories

- Open research data

We started communicating differently in order to reach more stakeholders

- Twitter account: reaching institutions and individuals

Taking off (2012)

European Commission

- The Commission releases the report on the 2011 public consultation
- In July 2012, the Commission adopts and releases three key documents on the same day:
    - Communication on a reinforced European Research Area partnership for excellence and growth, adopted
    - But most importantly:
    - **Communication** 'Towards better access to scientific information: Boosting the benefits of public investments in research'
    - **Recommendation** on access to and preservation of scientific information
- Later that year, the Commission clarifies its policy with Frequently Asked Questions on open access to publications and data in Horizon 2020

Taking off (2012)

Stakeholders

- The Commission publishes results of a **survey** on open access in FP7 among those projects participating to the Open Access Pilot in FP7.

Projects

- MEDOANET (*Mediterranean Open Access Network*)
- SERSCIDA (*Support for Establishment of National/Regional Social Sciences Data Archives*)

Conclusions from 2012

We sent a strong signal to European countries to pay attention to OA

- A key year!

We defined and explained our vision for the next Framework Programme

- Moving from an OA pilot to an overall mandate for publications in Horizon 2020 and a pilot for open research data
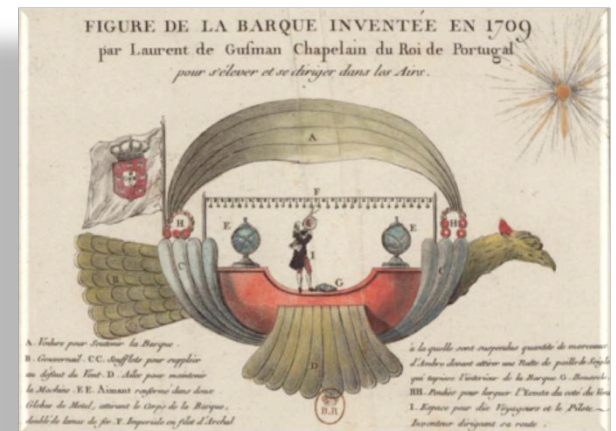
We anchored OA into the European agenda

- Setting the basis for future EC policy

We intensified the dialogues with stakeholders and became a reference

- We became regular in major conferences ('Berlin' conferences), getting 'global' (G8) etc.

We co-financed projects that could help governments to foster their OA policy at national level

Consolidation (2013)

European Commission

- The Commission funds a **study** and it shows that open access to research publications has reached a 'tipping point'
- The Commission releases a report on a **public hearing** that focuses more specifically on open research data.
- At the end of 2013, the Commission launches Horizon 2020 and announces the related open access policies: mandatory open access to publications and an Open Research Data pilot

Other EU partners:

- Earlier that year, the European Economic and Social Committee releases its Opinion on the Commission Communication

Consolidation (2013)

Member States

- Led by the Irish Presidency, EU Member States hold a **debate** that is specifically focusing on open access
- This is also the year of the first meeting of the National Points of Reference established by the 2012 Recommendation

Project

- **RECODE** (*Policy Recommendations for Open Access to Research Data in Europe*)

Conclusions from 2013

EU Member States shared experiences and views, they welcomed the general principle of OA in H2020

- All have also nominated their National Points of Reference on scientific information

Horizon 2020 was launched, stronger on OA

- Not about whether OA or not, but how to implement it

Issues around OA are getting more technical

- E.g. Text and Data Mining (copyright issues), Data Management Plan etc.

We co-financed projects that dig deeper into the question of open access to research data

New territories (2014-2015)

European Commission

- The Commission releases an Expert **Report** on Text and Data Mining
- The Commission launches a more general **public consultation** in order to gauge the trend towards a more open, data-driven and people-focused way of doing research and innovation: Open access is encapsulated into **Open Science**
- The Commission organises a **workshop** on alternative open access publishing models

New territories (2014-2015)

Projects

- May 2015: The Commission financially supports OpenAIRE2020 '
  FP7 post-grant Open Access publishing funds pilot'

- **FOSTER** (*Facilitate Open Science Training for European Research*)

- **PASTEUR4OA** (*Open Access Policy Alignment Strategies for European Union Research*)

- **FutureTDM** (*Future Text and Data Mining*)

- **OpenMinTED** (*Open Mining Infrastructure for Text and Data*)

Conclusions from 2014-2015

We embedded OA into Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation

- Open Access is now one of the pillars of the priorities of Commissioner Moedas

We gathered the first results of OA in H2020 and provided support to a new experiment in OA publishing funding in FP7

- As a pilot, before considering whether this should apply to Horizon 2020 projects after their contract has expired

We tried to stay coherent between the OA policy we implement (Horizon 2020) and the OA policy we promote (OA in the EU)

We explored new territories with stakeholders and EU Member States

- Alternative OA publishing models

We co-financed more specific OA projects

- In policy/training on OA and on the specific area of TDM

Next steps and challenges (1/2)

The Framework Programmes

- Accurately monitor OA in FP7 and Horizon 2020

- Provide 360° support for the Horizon 2020 Open Research Data pilot
  - More training and guidance e.g. on Data Management Plan

- Adapt OA mandate and/or pilot of Horizon 2020 – or not
  - Mid-term review (2017)

Next steps and challenges (2/2)

Working together

- Get more knowledge on open research data

  Incl. European Research Cloud, FAIR data (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)

- Mainstream Open Access and reach towards harmonised policies and common standards on a global scale

  E.g. Dutch Council Presidency (First semester 2016)

- Develop more and better interactions with stakeholders

  E.g. Open Science Policy Platform

- Find a European, legal solution for Text and Data Mining

  I.e. EU copyright reform

- Explore *inter alia* alternative OA publishing models and alternative metrics

  E.g. Call *GARRI.4.2015* "Innovative approach to release and disseminate research results and measure their impact"; Workshop Alternative OA Publishing models on 12 October 2015 etc.

Thank you!

We want to give European researchers and innovators the best conditions to do their job.

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