

## Libraries, the Information Society in Action

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### Open Access to research results: the catalyzing role of CERN

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The CERN Convention of 1953, the document that formalises the foundation of the European research institute, states:

*"...the results of its experimental and theoretical work shall be published or otherwise made generally available".* So, from the very beginning, CERN considered it part of its mission to provide free worldwide access to scientific works in High Energy Physics.

To this end CERN maintains a paper preprints archive that stores articles, reports and theses originating from laboratories all over the world from 1954 to now.

Since 1993, following the invention of the WWW (created by the CERN scientist Tim Berners Lee in 1989) CERN has used an electronic system to satisfy its mission of dissemination and long-term retention of scientific reports. In 1999 this was developed into the present CDS (CERN Document Server).

Today only 30% of the current article production is not available as open access on CDS and a retrospective scanning project is underway to recover the missing full-text in the near future.

In recent years CERN has intensified its efforts with authors in order to reinforce the habit of self-archiving (CERN publication policy document, November 2003). It has also developed its policy on scientific and scholarly communication in order to promote open access to scientific publications:

- May 2004: CERN signs the Berlin Declaration and the Organization is actively committed to Open Access.

- March 2005: CERN's Executive Board approves the new CERN policy on Open Access "Continuing CERN action on Open Access" summarized in the two following points:

- to require its researchers to deposit a copy of all their published articles in an open access repository.

- to encourage its researchers to publish their research articles in open access journals.

- September 2005: "Open Meeting on the Changing Publishing Model" to inform CERN authors about the Open Access policy.

- December 2005: "Colloquium on Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics" to identify a set of business models to promote Open Access publishing.

Further information about the activities of CERN Library are available at <http://library.cern.ch>