



Open Access Resolution of the University of Freiburg

As a 21st century comprehensive university, the University of Freiburg is dedicated to providing an independent and critical space for developing revolutionary innovations and educating future generations on the basis of freedom of research and instruction. It is committed to fulfilling its responsibility of putting the knowledge and collective achievements of its scholars at the disposal of society at large. The University of Freiburg sees the open access publication paradigm as an innovative means of allowing everyone free and equal access to academic findings and, at the same time, ensuring that these findings receive the attention they deserve in the general public. According to the Berlin Declaration¹ on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, an open access publication must satisfy the following two conditions:

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität
Freiburg

Der Rektor

Fahnenbergplatz
79085 Freiburg

Tel. 0761/203-4323
Fax 0761/203-4390

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Open access publications in recognized and peer-reviewed media achieve a higher level of general accessibility than comparable publications in limited-access media. Publications in the open access format thus serve to improve the accessibility of academic work and thus also the public visibility of the scholars who wrote it and the institutions where they did the research. With

¹ http://www.mpg.de/pdf/openaccess/BerlinDeclaration_en.pdf

the publication platform FreiDok, the university is already in possession of an – also in international comparison – outstanding format for open access publications. In the „Ranking Web of World Repositories,“ FreiDok placed 47th among all institutional repositories worldwide (as of 01/2010).² FreiDok enables primary as well as secondary publications. Due to the increasing significance of open access publications, the publication portal FreiDok is currently being improved to include better functionality and meet the needs of scholars more adequately.

Thus, the University of Freiburg actively encourages its researchers to present their findings to the worldwide scientific community as well as to the general public in the open access format. These authors are entitled to retain the usage rights for the electronic versions of their publications. The Freiburg University Library provides authors advising and support for this purpose.

Passed by the Rectorate on 31 March 2010

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer

Rector

² <http://repositories.webometrics.info>

The ranking took into account factors like visibility on the Internet, amount of data, number of confirmed publications, and current number of hits on Google Scholar. FreiDok is distinguished particularly by its good visibility, certainly an important factor for university marketing.