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## Brazil supports Open Access to Scientific Information

Johann van Reenen, Ibero-American Science & technology Education Consortium, Albuquerque, NM, May 21, 2004

Also published:

- In Portuguese: "Brasil apóia Acesso Livre a Informação Científica" at: <http://dll.istec.org/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=54>
- *SPARC E-News*, June-July 2004 at <http://www.arl.org/sparc/pubs/enews/jun04.html#5>
- *Open Access News (News from the open access movement)*. Friday, June 18, 2004 at <[http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/2004\\_06\\_13\\_fosblogarchive.html](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/2004_06_13_fosblogarchive.html)> and <https://mx2.arl.org/Lists/SPARC-OAForum/Message/793.htm>
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Participants in the Second *Simpósio Internacional Bibliotecas Digitais* (II SIBD or international Symposium on Digital Libraries) and the leadership of IBICT (Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia) and ISTEAC (Ibero-American Science & Technology Education Consortium) announced on May 21, 2004 their strong support for the Berlin Declaration on Open Access. The II SIBD took place at UNICAMP, Campinas, Brazil, from 17 – 21 May 2004. It brought together over 500 Academic Librarians, Information Scientists, Engineers, and University Leaders from Brazil and surrounding countries. Some participants from South and Central America were sponsored by travel grants from the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Open Access Movement encourages free access to published research, especially those paid for or sponsored by government funding. They believe that this will stimulate research and the discovery of useful technology and innovation. This will support economic and social development around the Globe, especially in developing countries.

The Brazilian statements on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IBICT, one of the world's oldest information science organizations, makes Brazil the first Latin American country to enter this arena and to support freer dissemination of scholarship and research results. At the same time, ISTEAC as a sponsor of this conference announced that the President of the organization would be signing the Berlin Declaration at their next meeting.

There was an unexpected grass roots "open letter" and proposal from the participants that was read at the end of the final day. The gist of the proposal was that the "participants urge all funding agencies, research institutes, and their own universities to support open access through education, reallocated funding and dedicated digital library research projects." A general vote by conference attendees was in overwhelming support of the proposal. After approval, the symposium chairman, Mauro Miskulin, promised that it would be disseminated to all the participating universities and all governmental and funding agencies. This proposal was in addition to the open access statement from IBICT and the announcement that ISTEAC's president will sign the Berlin Declaration on behalf all ISTEAC members

Important players in the open access movement were in attendance and made presentations. Theresa Velden from the Max Planck Institute in Germany represented the signatories of the Berlin Declaration. Jean-Claude Guédon from the University of Montreal in Canada represented the Soros Open Society Institute, the sponsors of the Budapest Accord. Rick Luce from the Los

Alamos National Laboratory, USA, represented the Alliance for Innovation in Science & Technology Information (AISTI) and other open archives initiatives. Johann van Reenen from the University of New Mexico (USA) and Director of the Digital Library Linkage Initiative of ISTEAC represented the movement among science and engineering librarians in the region. Senior officials from IBICT and the Ministry of Science and Technology also attended the symposium at various times to signify their support.

These declarations of support will ensure a healthy future for Open Access in Latin America and is a significant event in the March of Science.

For more information contact Johann van Reenen via e-mail at [jreenen@unm.edu](mailto:jreenen@unm.edu). The ISTEAC Digital Library Linkages portal at <http://dll.istec.org/> will soon host all the statements and the proposal. The symposium website is at <http://server01.bc.unicamp.br/sibd/index.php>.