

"Gli atenei italiani per l'Open Access: verso l'accesso aperto alla letteratura di ricerca"
(Italian Universities for Open Access: towards open access for scholarly literature)

Messina, Italy, November 4th-5th, 2004

Messina Declaration

*Italian Declaration supporting the Berlin Declaration
on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities*

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS a global dissemination of scientific knowledge has a fundamental importance for the cultural and economic progress of society;

WHEREAS national and international academic communities feel the need to identify alternative models of scientific communication that can provide the largest dissemination and the highest impact to their research output;

WHEREAS a growing number of international initiatives have identified "open access" to scholarly literature as the basic dissemination tool for cultural heritage and research output;

WHEREAS the Berlin Declaration, in accordance with the spirit of the Declaration of the Budapest Open Access Initiative, the ECHO Charter and the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, has among its goals the support to "new possibilities of knowledge dissemination not only through the classical form but also and increasingly through the open access paradigm via the Internet";

WHEREAS these principles have been stated and agreed as important by the university delegates convened in Messina, recognising the international high profile of the academic, cultural and research institutions that have signed the Berlin Declaration;

THE RECTORS AND DELEGATES PRESENT DECLARE

to agree to the "Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities", wishing that this act will represent just the first and significant contribution from Italian Universities to a broader and faster dissemination of scientific knowledge.

(Rectors' and delegates' signatures follow)