

SCOAP3 for German Universities - Project funded by DFG

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The aim of SCOAP3 (Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics) is to convert leading journals in High-Energy Physics to Open Access by setting up a worldwide consortium. Together with Deutsche Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) and the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (MPG), the German National Library of Science and Technology (TIB) will represent the participating German Institutions. The project "SCOAP3 for German Universities" (SCOAP3-DH) funded by German Research Foundation (DFG) has been set up at TIB to build up a national consortium of German universities contributing to the international SCOAP3 consortium.

Position of TIB:

SCOAP3-DH for German Universities is a project organized by TIB. TIB is the leading negotiator for the national licensing program funded by the German Research Foundation. In this licensing program agreements on national licences have been concluded with IOP, APS and Springer. These publishers are also relevant for SCOAP3. In addition, agreements on Pay-per-View-Licences with the publishers named above and Elsevier (among others) have been stipulated. On a national level, TIB is responsible for the special interest collection in physics for the whole of Germany. With GetInfo, TIB offers enhanced services in Physics (www.vifaphys.de).

Due to these continuing responsibilities and services, TIB can resort to prior expertise with licensing agreements and procedures and also offers services which meet the specific requirements of the target group.

Publishing in High Energy Physics (HEP):

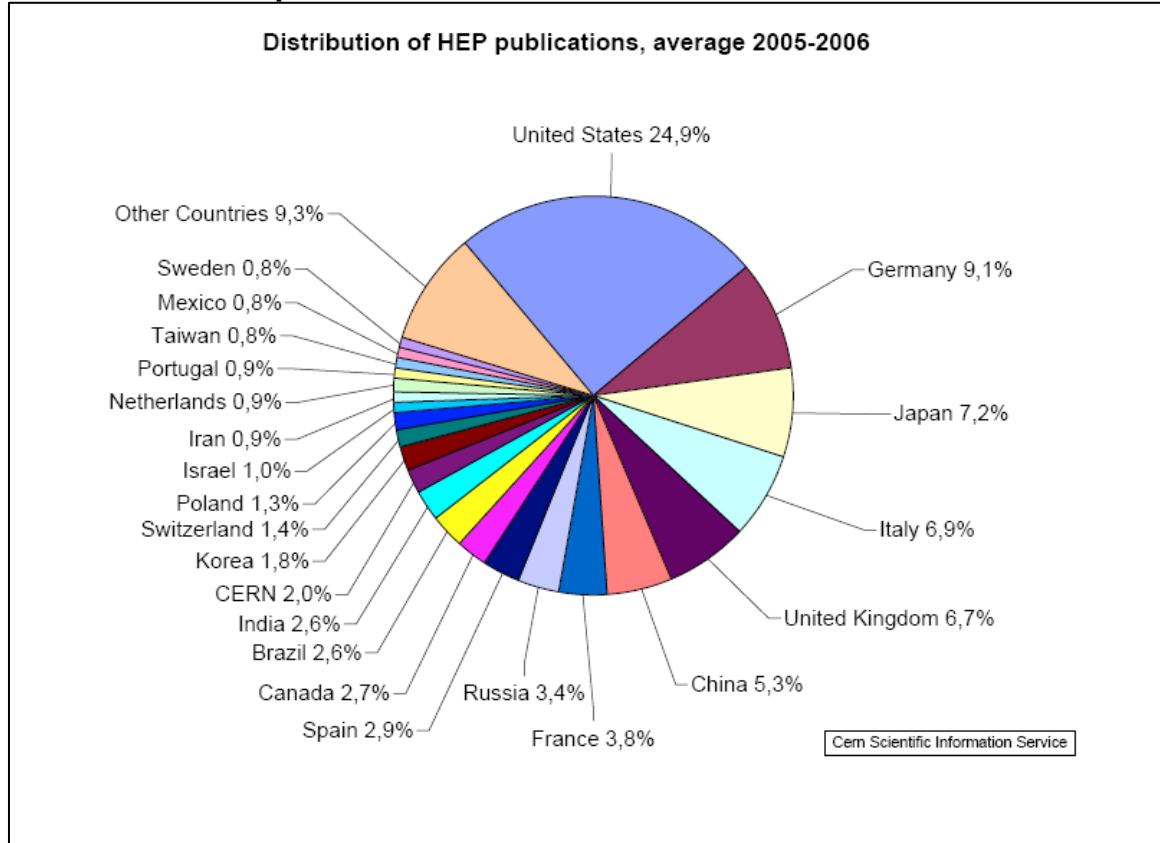
Currently, 90 % of HEP pre-prints are freely accessible in repositories. HEP-physicists rather read preprint versions of journal articles than the journal itself and the scientific community strongly requests opportunities to publish as Open Access. But they also recognize that peer review of high quality journals is a necessity for quality control and that peer reviewed publications in high profile journals are a measure of quality and productivity of research groups and institutes¹. The preprint culture in High-Energy physics and the need for peer reviewed publications in high profile journals for the scientific renown of the scientists have become a strong driver for SCOAP3.

Who is SCOAP3?

SCOAP3 is an international consortium of High-Energy Physics funding agencies, HEP laboratories and leading national and international libraries and library consortia. Its goal is to facilitate Open Access publishing in High-Energy Physics by converting the leading HEP-journals to Open Access.

¹ Towards Open Access Publishing in High Energy Physics : Report of the SCOAP3 Working Party, April 2007, <http://www.scoap3.org/files/Scoap3WPRReport.pdf>

German Share of publications:



According to CERN Scientific information service, a percentage of 9.1 % of all HEP-publications worldwide is published by German scientists.

The journals

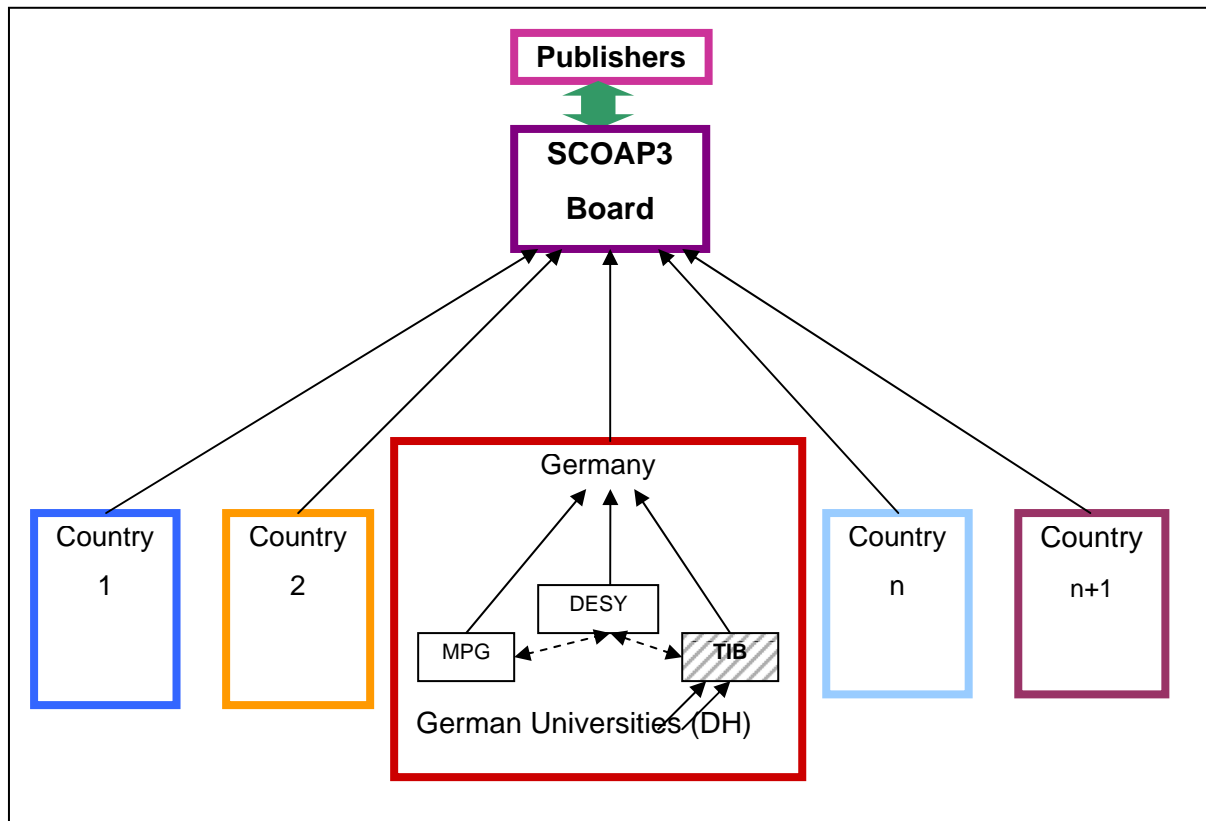
Within the scope of the project are the following journals, which contain almost only HEP content:

- Physical Review D (American Physical Society)
- Physics Letters B (Elsevier)
- Nuclear Physics B (Elsevier)
- Journal of High Energy Physics (SISSA/IOP, as of 2010 Springer²)
- European Physical Journal C (Springer)
- Physical Review Letters (American Physical Society) with 10 % HEP-content

Additional titles such as Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A (Elsevier) with 25% HEP-content and newly emerging journals are interesting for the project as well and may be included in the consortial agreement later on.

Organisational structure and representation of German SCOAP3-partners within the consortium:

² Public announcement on the internet site of the journal, <http://www.iop.org/EJ/journal/-page=extra.announcement/1126-6708>



Within the consortium, an international board of SCOAP3 (coordinated by CERN) will negotiate the terms and conditions for the conversion of the journals with the publishers through an international tendering procedure. The countries themselves will only negotiate with the SCOAP3 board. Within Germany, MPG, DESY and the German universities take part in the consortium. TIB will represent the interests of all German universities and university libraries involved in High-Energy Physics in the German group of SCOAP3 partners. DESY is official contact and coordinator of the SCOAP3-consortium for the German partners.

Funding of SCOAP3-DH:

It is intended to redirect subscription money to cover publication costs within the SCOAP3-consortium. 64.6 % of the necessary funds have already been pledged by partners in 21 countries worldwide³. The German share will amount to about 1 Mio. Euro / year, of which German universities are expected to contribute about 650.000 Euro.

MPG and DESY have already pledged to participate in the international SCOAP3-consortium, the two organisations together raising 350.000 Euro for participation of their institutions.

Work program and time frame of SCOAP3-DH:

The next steps for the project SCOAP3 at TIB will be to establish a SCOAP3-consortium of German universities (SCOAP3-DH). For a transition period, funding for additional costs to the share of the German universities will be secured by the DFG (German Research Foundation).

³ Status 28/08/2009, <http://scoap3.org/fundraising.html>

The project will be supported by DFG funds for three years (2009-2011). Staff appropriations have been granted for 24 months and project staff has been employed starting October 1st 2009. Establishing the German SCOAP3-DH-Consortium will run parallel to establishing the international consortium. The actual conversion to Open Access will depend on the progress in raising the international funds and other preparatory works on the international level of SCOAP3 (especially the tendering procedure). The consortium will continue as a regular assignment of TIB after its setup, possibly separate consortiums for other subject areas will be formed.

The business model:

Based on the model of an Institutional Membership, a business model shall be developed to finance the share of the German universities of SCOAP3. The publication costs for all publications of all authors of an institution will be covered in the sum paid by the institution. To build up the Consortium, contributions of German universities participating in SCOAP3 shall amount to no more than the subscription fees paid by the universities so far. To enable scientists in developing countries to publish their scientific articles, a margin of 10% (which shall be borne by all developed countries) shall already be included in the predicted contributions of the German universities to the consortium, thereby not increasing the contributions of the universities. In the transitional period already paid subscription fees shall be credited to the SCOAP3 account of the particular institution by the publishers. The prerequisites mentioned above have to be ensured by the international tender process which will begin as soon as a minimum of 75 % of the necessary funds have been pledged by partners worldwide.

Establishing the Consortium:

To establish the consortium, an infrastructure has to be implemented at TIB for the administration of the SCOAP3-Consortium of German universities. Envisaged members of the SCOAP3-Consortium of German universities will have to be addressed and information material regarding SCOAP3 prepared to support the campaign. Accordingly, information events on SCOAP3-DH will be organized. After its constitution, the administration of the consortium will remain a permanent assignment at TIB.

SCOAP3-DH: Networking and Information

Since **University Libraries** decide about the assignment of subscription money, their support for SCOAP3 is essential for the success of the project. But in order to get support of the community, the following stake holders will be addressed in the process:

- The „**Komitee für Elementarteilchenphysik**“ (KET; www.ketweb.de) is the representation of the scientific HEP-community of German Universities.
- The **Helmholtz-Alliance „Physics at the Terascale“** is a structured research network of universities, institutes of Helmholtz- and Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, acting as a tool for more effective collaboration and addressing the fundamental questions of particle physics in four work groups.
- The working group „**Arbeitsgruppe Information (AGI)**“ of the German Physical Society takes an interest in all aspects of scientific information and communication in physics and is an important multiplier.
- The Vice Chancellors of German universities will be addressed via the **German Rectors' Conference (HRK)**.

- Cooperation with the **German Open Access initiative** www.open-access.net is envisaged.

Needless to say, cooperation with the German partners of SCOAP3 and – via the leader of the German group – also with CERN, the leader of the international consortium - is essential to harmonize with the national and international timing of the SCOAP3 project.

Changing Role of TIB:

ILL and Document Supply have been central to TIB since its foundation, but in the digital age, activities like SCOAP3-DH diversify the picture.

The traditional core business of TIB is to collect printed materials in the subject areas of science and technology – as complete as possible - and to provide access to the documents through a document delivery service. A particular strength of the collection lies in the sector of grey literature.

While the importance of digital publications and their collection is continuously increasing, new fields of activity have been taken up by TIB and contribute to TIB's role in the digital age:

One field is the active support of **Open Access** with activities like the SCOAP3 support described in this article.

Negotiating for **Licensing Electronic content** is another: National and Pay-per-View and Pay-Per-Use licence agreements for electronic journals and journal archives, collections of digital or digitized texts and digital databases are being made.

The **DOI registration agency** situated at TIB provides persistent identifiers for digital documents and data.

Also, TIB supports the **provision of non-textual materials** for the scientific community with several projects.

Common to all of these activities in the digital age, TIB has identified **international negotiation and co-operation**, although always having been part of its activity, being of utmost, ever increasing importance.