

## Introduction

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APE 2007 was held in Berlin on 23–24 January 2007 under the Auspices of the EU Research Directorate-General and under the Patronage of Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Education and Research in Germany.

Reading the contributions before the ‘imprimatur’ for this special issue of “Information Services & Use”, we can conclude, that APE 2007 was or must have been a very interesting conference. It has taken much more time than expected for the publisher IOS Press to collect all papers. With the great help of our rapporteurs Björn Ortelbach and Dr. Chris Armbruster, who also wrote a “Short Report” immediately after the conference, we were able to present a draft text to some of the speakers.

Unfortunately we are not able to reproduce the many questions and answers from the discussions, a very important element of any conference.

On behalf of the Organisers and the Programme Committee we would like to thank the Chairmen, the Speakers and the participants for their contributions. We certainly also want to thank the many sponsors, who have significantly contributed to the high level of APE 2007. They are listed in the back of this issue.

APE conferences provide an independent and international platform where academic, educational and professional publishers, university presses, librarians, scientists, authors, editors, teachers, learned and professional societies and associations, funding agencies, politicians and policy makers, subscription agencies and booksellers, recruiting agencies as well as technology providers can present visions and views, exchange experiences and discuss opportunities and challenges.

Dr. Karl-Peter Winters, on behalf of the German Association of Publishers and Booksellers (Börsenverein):

European dialogue on the future of publishing is hugely important. The intensive discussions at APE 2007 earlier this year and APE 2006, the first-ever conference on ‘Academic Publishing in Europe’ made this obvious. Professionals from libraries, publishing companies, academic institutions and international associations debated their sometimes very different perspectives, requirements and views, exchanging information and know-how.

The next conference has been announced already: the third APE conference will be held 22–23 January 2008 in the Leibniz Room of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences at the famous Gendarmenmarkt in Berlin, preceded by the Education & Training Course for Younger Academic Publishers (YAP) on 21 January 2008, which is offered again with special support from the EU Research Directorate-General.

For more and actual information please see: [www.ape2008.eu](http://www.ape2008.eu).

Looking forward to seeing you in Berlin in 2008!

Arnoud de Kemp  
Editor