

Preserving the information commons for scientific research (S)

May 22nd, 2006 - EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

SEMINAR :

"Preserving the information commons for scientific research"

Speaker :



Prof. Paul A. David - Stanford University and University of Oxford

Current research :

Economics of science and technology, with special reference to impact of intellectual property rights protections on the direction and conduct of "open science" research; implications of advances in computer-mediated telecommunications for collaborative development of information-goods, e.g., free/libre and open source software development.

The presentation

The globalization of the knowledge market creates new challenges for the scientific community. Aware of these changes, Swiss scientific organizations (such as the SNSF) have recently signed the "Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities", which supports open access to research and promotes the Internet as a functional instrument for a global scientific knowledge base.

In his seminar, Prof. Paul A. David will present some economic arguments and discussions regarding the current conflict in science between an institutional regime based upon private property rights and the alternative, "open science" mode of research organization in which information disclosing both the results and the means of producing are left in the public domain.

The main hypothesis of his discussion is that the contractually constructed IPR based "information commons" is a natural device for the socially efficient pooling of research results, particularly those that take the form of tools for exploratory science.

The aim of the presentation is to clarify the meaning and practical significance of the idea of creating an "information commons" for scientific and technical research communities.

The audience

Any EPFL members (researchers, scientists, information and library officers, research managers) interested in the problems of knowledge privatization, private markets for knowledge or the efficiency and viability of mechanisms to maintain free access to scientific information and research tools could attend the seminar.