

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN ACCESS IN DENMARK

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Introduction

In Denmark an Open Access committee has completed 14 recommendations on how to implement Open Access in Denmark¹. This article gives a short description of the background and a presentation of a selected number of the committees' recommendations.

In 2007 the Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and his European colleagues signed The European Council Conclusions on access to scientific knowledge in the digital age². In Denmark the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation chose to appoint an Open Access Committee with the primary task to ensure how Denmark can comply with the Council Conclusions. In the beginning of May 2010 the Committee issued their report and a hearing process takes place in May and June 2010. The recommendations are the first step towards an official Open Access policy and strategy in Denmark.

14 recommendations on how to implement Open Access in Denmark

As an introduction to the recommendations it is noteworthy that the Committee has stated that 1) an Open Access policy in Denmark should focus on green Open Access, 2) the aggregate expenditure to purchase licenses to electronic journals should not rise as a consequence of Open Access, 3) there should to the extent possible be free access to the results of public funded research, 4) the Open Access publishing process must still be based on quality assurance and 5) long term preservation of data and publications is important and should be prioritized.³

Recommendation 1. National Open Access policy should be established by the Ministry of Science,

¹ Anbefalinger til implementering af Open Access in Denmark – Rapport fra Open Access udvalget. Udgivet af Danmarks Elektroniske Fag- og Forskningsbibliotek, 2010. Available at: <http://www.deff.dk/content.aspx?catguid={432C8A5B-1EFC-47A5-8378-0339EAED4267%7d>

² Council of the European Union: Council conclusions on scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation. Available at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/197236.pdf

³ Anbefalinger til implementering af Open Access in Denmark – Rapport fra Open Access udvalget. Udgivet af Danmarks Elektroniske Fag- og Forskningsbibliotek, 2010. Available at: <http://www.deff.dk/content.aspx?catguid={432C8A5B-1EFC-47A5-8378-0339EAED4267%7d> Page. 3 + page 15

Technology and Innovation

The first recommendation is that the Danish Ministry for Science Technology and Innovation should decide and implement a national Open Access strategy. The strategy must deal with issues such as copyright and long term preservation. The recommendation is a fundamental and necessary first step towards more Open Access in Denmark.

Recommendation 2. Research councils and foundations establish Open Access policies

The second step is that the national research councils and foundations should implement an Open Access policy that states that there must be Open Access to all public financed research results. This recommendation is an obvious second step and required in order to obtain an Open Access mandate from the national research councils and foundations.

Recommendation 3. Universities and other research institutions establish Open Access policies

The third step is that the universities should implement and sustain Open Access policies. The universities have a key role as they are responsible for carrying out research and guide the researchers in relation to Open Access publishing as well as playing a leading role in the necessary infrastructure. If recommendation number 1 and 2 should have any effect, the universities have a key role in ensuring that the policies are followed and that researcher gets the necessary help on all aspects from copy right issues to the practical registration of publications and full text.

Recommendation 6. Danish scientific publishers prepare discussion paper on changeover to Open Access

In recommendation number 6 the Open Access Committee invites the Danish Publishers Association to put forward suggestions on how the changeover to Open Access could work for Danish publishers. Publishing is associated with certain costs and as mentioned earlier the Open Access Committee has stated that Open Access publishing should still be based on quality assurance and peer review. Another challenge is scientific monographs or journals in Danish and how to continue to publish scientific

publications when a future national Open Access policy states that there should be free access to public funded research.

Recommendation 10. Increased focus on Open Access in DEFF consortia licenses

Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) has for many years negotiated licenses to electronic material on behalf of libraries in Denmark. In recommendation number 10 DEFF is requested to intensify the effort on Open Access issues such as transparent business models, freedom to green Open Access, processing fees etc. The recommendation underlines the connection between licensing and Open Access.

Recommendation 13. National planning of free access to as well as long term preservation of primary research data.

With this recommendation it is suggested that an inter-disciplinary organisation is established in the area of primary research data. This new organisation should work out plans on how Danish research data may be archived, accessed and secured for the future. The recommendation is interesting because it is the starting signal for joint national cooperation and planning for the extremely large and complex area of primary research data.

The above mentioned 6 recommendations are only a selection of The OA Committee's recommendations. Other recommendations concern national and international coordination, long term preservation, internet access, research evaluation etc. The 14 recommendations cover all aspects of the Council Conclusions on access, dissemination and preservation of scientific information in the digital age.

For more information about the recommendations and the Open Access committee please look at: [http://www.deff.dk/content.aspx?catguid={432C8A5B-1EFC-47A5-8378-0339EAED4267%7d}](http://www.deff.dk/content.aspx?catguid={432C8A5B-1EFC-47A5-8378-0339EAED4267%7d)

Summary

In Denmark an Open Access Committee has put forward 14 recommendations on how to implement Open Access in Denmark. Some recommendations are strategic while others are practically oriented and expected to bring forward new knowledge and coordination. The Open Access Committee's work is an important step towards a political, strategic and coordinated national action plan for the implementation of free access to publicly funded research publications and research data now and in the future.



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