

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING IN LITHUANIA: MYKOLAS ROMERIS UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING CASE STUDY

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The aim of this article is to analyze the results of Mykolas Romeris University (further MRU) open access published publications in 2013. MRU is international institution of higher education, which is developing internationality. One of the strategic aims of University is a growth of remote studies, consolidation in continuing studies market and enhanced erudition. To become electronic university, where all services are available online, is also important goal to be pursued.

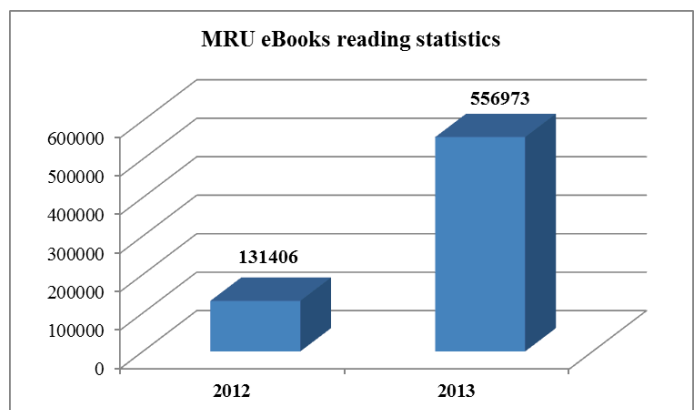
Since the beginning of 2013 year, the university became involved actively in open access movement and started executing open access policy. Science and research publications are provided by open access in university website and can be freely used not only by students, lecturers but also by broad public. This way, international university cooperation, researchers' network creation, new interdisciplinary studies, innovation growth, information sharing and popularization of science are encouraged. Open access to scientific studies results gives sense to executed significant research, making them available to public, expands visibility not only in national but also international expanse. Open access specialists, experts and people connected with it are invited and trainings are provided in order to introduce the open access to as many scientists as possible.

In 2013 the university signed The Berlin Declaration on Open Access which says that open access has to satisfy two conditions: authors provide possibility to access their scientific works for free and allow users to use them supposing copyright is not violated, and upload their work to at least one electronic documents repository.

[MRU institutional repository](https://repository.mruni.eu/)¹ was created at the same time, where science publications, books, conferences material, PhD thesis, students' papers (Masters and Bachelors) and other MRU employees' scientific

production are placed. MRU institutional repository and MRU mandate were registered in world open access repositories register ROARMAP, on 17th October and in Open DOAR and ROAR Registry of Open Access Repositories as well.

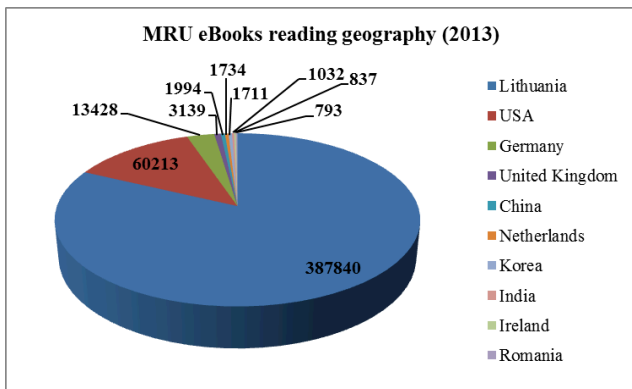
In order to present academic books to students and broad society more effectively, broader, and with better services, since 2011 year, Mykolas Romeris University together with Lithuanian Association of periodicals and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University created eBooks Portal Baltic – eBooks (now [MRU eBooks](#)²) where students and lecturers of university can read books for free. People, who want to purchase printed book, could order it even from their homes, using special *Print on demand* technology, which allows every reader to get their own printed book even if it is sold out in bookshops. Electronic books have been successful since the first year: university community members were connected 18308 times; external users subscribed 105 MRU electronic books. There are 150 books in the portal and their number is growing. Since March of 2013 all portal books have been available to world readers. MRU eBooks portal readability in 2013 has increased 4 by times compared to 2012.



¹ <https://repository.mruni.eu/>

² <http://ebooks.mruni.eu/>

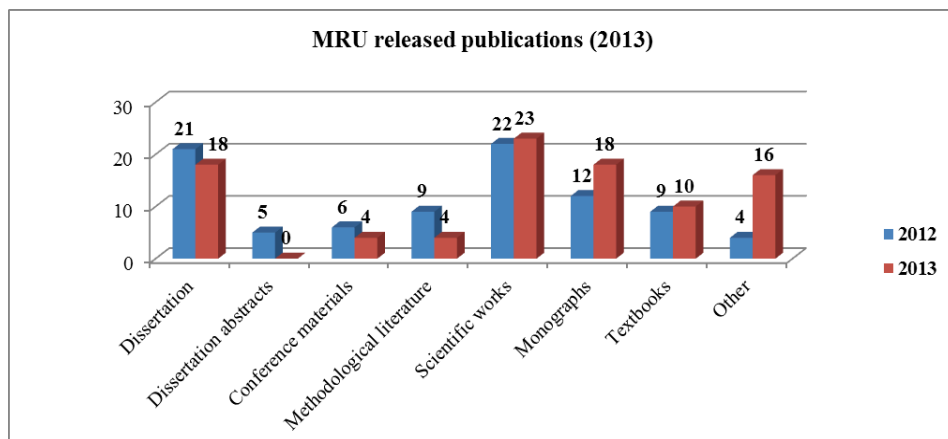
The number of readers in different countries has expanded. Although the most readers are from Lithuania, geographical coverage of the readers' enlargement was seen in the United States of America, Germany, and the United Kingdom. 750881 visitors visited the portal and 7423 unique visitors registered.



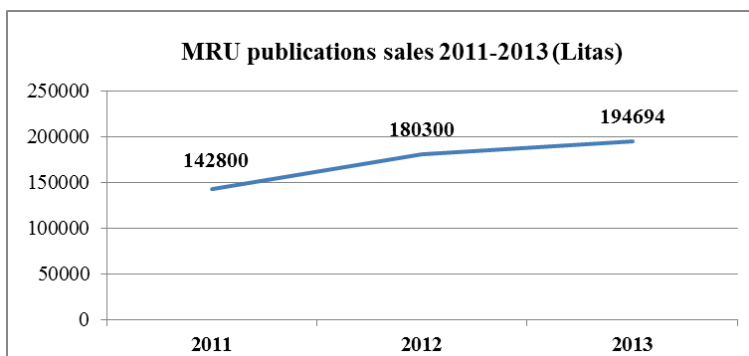
In 2014 year there is a plan to install Open Monograph Press in MRU. This is open-source publishing platform for process management, which optimizes work while publishing discontinuous scientific publications (monographs, science studies and etc.) Functions of reviewing, editing, cataloging and publishing processes management are implemented in the platform. OMP platform can change main publishing house catalog with distribution and sales organizing property.

MRU released publications (2013)

Having reduced initial published items quantity and moved to print on demand model, all published publications printed in 2013 were realized or distributed in other way according to publication commercial potential and purpose. Great economic



benefit for user and institution itself could be seen. Initial printing quantity of new commercial



publications was from 50 to 100 items. Having evaluated MRU publishing commercial benefit, increase of sold books revenues is seen.

MRU publishes scientific journals which are also available freely. Users can read, download, copy, print, perform search in the articles without additional permission of publisher or author. MRU scientific journals "Jurisprudence" and "Social Technologies" are included into Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) open repository journals catalog. Other MRU journals are waiting to be approved and included in the catalog.

Open Journal Systems, widely used electronic publishing system of scientific journals, was implemented in 2013 in all MRU periodic scientific journals as a result of reaction to science and technologies progress. This system covers all scientific journals publishing process from manuscript submission to the complete full-text number publication by open access.

In order to foster academic ethics, MRU has implemented plagiarism prevention. Starting from

2013, all manuscripts submitted for printing are checked with the plagiarism prevention system CrossCheck, which provides the possibility to find and compare texts in the Internet in various formats and languages. In 2013 MRU signed a contract regarding regular Digital Object Identifier

(DOI) grant for scientific articles published in MRU. 150 unique DOI codes have been granted for scientific articles published in MRU and that allows easy access to the articles on the Internet even if the electronic article location was changed.

Since 2013, in pursuance to legitimize open access of scientific activity results, Creative Common license – Attribution-Non Commercial-No-Derivatives 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0) is applied for MRU scientific articles. Users of licensed work can move the work to their computer and distribute it to others, but it is necessary to specify the author and it is prohibited to use the work for commercial purposes. Derivative works are not licensed.

Openly accessible books with Daisy (Digital Accessible Information System) format have been published in MRU in cooperation with Lithuanian Library of the Blind since 2014 in order to increase accessibility of books for disabled people.

Books for blind and partially sighted people published in this format provide possibility to use them as sighted people use. They can not only listen, but also read these books.

Findings

First year practice has shown that Open Access to scientific and studies publications not only encourages international cooperation of University, new interdisciplinary studies research, information sharing, but can also be financially beneficial. The aim of the university is to continue this activity, encourage scientists to publish and contribute fully to the movement of open access, expand spectrum of services for users and pursue new possibilities to optimize publishing activity.



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