

OPEN ACCESS MOVEMENT IN LATVIA

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Open Access movement development in Latvia – introduction

Although an Open Access Policy on a regional or institutional level has not yet been adopted, active work on Open Access implementation is carried out. The University of Latvia Library (UL Library) take part in supporting the Open Access principles and creates and shares knowledge about Open Access in the academic and scientific environment. The Open Access movement in Latvia is being promoted through information materials, organization of different events and implementation and development of technological solutions.

Institutions like the Centre for Culture Information Systems and Riga Technical University also work with Open Access promotion in Latvia.

In 2011 the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia approved the National Reform Program for Latvia as part of the Implementation of the “Europe 2020” strategy.

The Open Access activities of the UL Library

Since year 2009 the UL Library has started a wide Open Access promotion. During the Open Access week the UL Library organizes different events: international seminars, workshops and discussions. The participants are introduced to Open Access theoretical approaches, the publishing options in institutional repositories and Open Access journals, copyright issues and the creation of institutional repositories. Seminars and discussions have lead to initiatives to set up institutional repositories in the UL, Riga Technical University, and the National library of Latvia. Guests from Great Britain, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine and Macedonia have participated and shared their experiences in the events organized by the UL Library.

From 2009 to 2014 the UL Library participated in the

European Commission Seventh Framework Programme project „OpenAIRE” (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe) and OpenAIREplus (2nd Generation of Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe: 2012-2014). In 2009 a seminar named “Open Access: research quality and impact maximization” was held. In 2010 a seminar named “Open Access and OpenAIRE- challenge and opportunity for Latvian scientific progress” was held.

In 2011 the UL Library managed an OA project funded by the Eifl organization “Information about the Open Access movement and resources at the University of Latvia”. A seminar named “Institutional repository for research development and scientific information availability” was held also.

In March 2012 the institutional repository development week was organized, a workshop named “Open Access publishing: possibilities and development” and discussion in the Scientific café “How to Google smart or how to distinguish good open access resources”.

In 2013 the Scientific council of the UL held a session and a discussion “Copyright issues in Open Access: a burden or an opportunity?” which also took place in the Scientific café. A video devoted to the 5-year anniversary of Open Access in Latvia, and electronic booklets where the main questions about copyright issues in Open Access where answered was produced.

Practical achievements in Open Access

One of the main achievements in the Open Access promotion in Latvia is the e-resource repository establishment. In Latvia there are established two e-resource repositories – UL e-resource repository which provides full access to the full texts and the RTU institutional repository which provides a limited access to the full texts. The UL e-resource repository (<https://dspace.lu.lv/dspace>) was established in 2011 with the aim to provide free access, promote and

distribute the scientific achievements of the UL and contribute to science and research development. The e-resource repository contain publications by the staff members of the UL – published articles, doctoral thesis and abstracts, conference proceedings, administrative, scientific and project reports and other electronic documents.

The RTU e-resource repository provides RTU with the collecting, archiving and dissemination of scientific publications. In the repository there are collected the journal «RTU Zinātniskie raksti» papers, RTU teaching staff and researchers publications, which are archived in the repository.

In Latvia there are two Open access journals indexed in DOAJ – „Latvian Journal of Physics and Technical Sciences” and „Proceedings of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. Section B: Natural, Exact and Applied Sciences”. The scientists also publish their works in institutional and subject repositories - BioMed Central, ArXiv, Cogprints etc. Open Access to scientific publications is also provided in “UL written and presented dissertations database”

Future objectives

The opportunity to publish publications and preprints in the UL e-resource repository is still not sufficiently appreciated by the authors of scientific publications in Latvia. It means that we have to increase their motivation and continue the work of informing them about the self-archiving possibilities in the UL e-resource repository.

Currently a OA policy development is taking place in the UL, that will be followed by implementation . It may serve as a pilot project for the development of a national policy .

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