

INGEGERD RABOW – THE FIRST NORDIC ADVOCATE!

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This issue of ScieCom info: Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific Communication will be the last and final issue. The first issue was published in Spring 2004, in the still early days of Open Access.

During the years Ingegerd Rabow has been the primary driver of the journal and this is no coincidence. Ingegerd has been involved in numerous activities related to scholarly communication and was very early active in the discussions about the promises of publishing via the internet and what became the Open Access movement.

Through constant engagement Ingegerd has managed to steer ScieCom info through troubled financial waters and as well managed to engage the Nordic and Baltic countries in contributing to the editorial work for the journal, which in itself is a major accomplishment.

After she returned to Lund University and joined the Library Head Office in 2001 and became head of Scientific Communication and Bibliometrics, Ingegerd was the driving force in what became a groundbreaking series of Nordic Conferences of Scholarly Communication, where she played an important role in attracting leading scholars from all over the world for discussions about the future of scholarly communication. Her energy made a significant contribution to the importance of the Nordic conferences, which had a big impact on the developments of Open Access in the Nordic countries. She developed the idea of and became manager of the nationally funded ScieCom - Swedish Resource Centre for Scientific Communication in 2004 and the journal ScieCom info was but one of the outputs from that project.

Another tangible result of her work was the Lund University Open Access policy issued in November 2005, the first Open Access policy in the Nordic Countries.

Through her work at Lund University and in national and Nordic projects she inspired Open Access developments at other Nordic Universities and her intense advocacy eventually paved the way for the signing of the Berlin Declaration by the Swedish Association of Higher Education and the Open Access Policy adopted by the Swedish Research Council.

Her work and publications on scholarly communication and bibliometrics gained a lot of respect throughout the Nordic countries and beyond. Ingegerd is never flashing her accomplishments and competence, so therefore it is very timely to highlight the importance of the contributions she has made for the good cause of Open Access. This is what happened in 2006, when the Faculty of Humanities at Lund University decided to award Ingegerd Rabow a honorary doctorate for her work in Scholarly Communication and Open-Access. This was a great moment and probably the first time a library staff member has received an award like this.

Looking back it is a pleasure to be able to state that Ingegerd's contribution to Open Access has been significant and it must as well be a pleasure for Ingegerd to see that what started as a bright idea of a few individuals has now become an irreversible movement that eventually will open up access to publicly funded research results to the benefit of students, researchers, practitioners and the societies, an idea now embraced by hundreds of universities, research funders and even governments all over the world. We are not really there yet, but surely we are much closer, not least because of Ingegerd's constant devotion to this good cause.

Thank you Ingegerd!

