

## OPEN MINDS – AN INTERVIEW WITH RUNE NILSEN, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Ingrid Cutler

### Knowledge as a common good

Rune Nilsen starts out talking about the change in attitude within research in the last decades: "In the beginning of the 1970s many researchers and students had a burning engagement in society and politics. In this period there was a dramatic change in society; knowledge became a common good, and there was an expectation that everybody could and should have access to research. There was hope for changing the future, and African countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan were building up infrastructures for education and research. A good example is Makerere University in Uganda, which in this period was called the Harvard of Africa."

He continues: "In the 1970s and 80s there was still some money in the system and some universities in African countries actually had access to many journals. Then the oil crisis came towards the end of the 1980s. Many African research institutions could no longer afford subscriptions to journals or buy books. The unstable political situation in many African countries, like Uganda, also led to stagnation in research development. The positive situation from the last decades suddenly changed."

"At the same time a paradigm shift within research with regards to the digital media took place. CERN developed the Internet, and ArXiv, the first open, research archive, for physics and related subject areas, was created. As a result researchers who cooperated with institutions and researchers from development countries started to ask why there should only be Open Access for subjects like physics. Why could there not be similar open and free access possibilities for other research areas as well?"

### Motivation for becoming a researcher

To the question why he first became interested in research and how his research background led to an involvement in the Open Access movement, Nilsen answers: "I guess there are basically two reasons for someone to become a researcher. Firstly, there is the need to have impact on one's own research field. And secondly, most researchers are concerned about interacting with society in a broader context. I have been concerned with the quality and the visibility of

my research output within my own research community, but I have at the same time seen the need to disseminate my research and cooperate with others as a part of larger, global society."

In the beginning of the 1980s Rune Nilsen worked as a researcher at the Armauer Hansen Research Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Here he studied diagnostics and biological understanding for leprosy and tuberculosis. When he worked in Ethiopia he discovered that there was no access to research journals and books except where external partners like the University in Bergen were involved. "I saw that the students did not have access to the research results they needed. Most major publishers were not interested in sending articles to research institutions in African countries because they were afraid that the institutions would not pay. Because of this, a project was started where the University of Bergen paid for the journals that researchers at the institution needed. However, all the journals had to be sent to Bergen first because the publishers would not allow the journals to be sent directly to poor and "unstable" countries. Is this not what we call apartheid?"

### Access to research

When I ask him to elaborate what he means by apartheid to research, Nilsen answers: "When I talk about apartheid in this context I am referring to a situation where some parts of the global community do not have the same rights to knowledge and development as others have. Apparently the attitude amongst many researchers, institutions and publishers is that some countries do not need higher education, access to books and articles. An example that illustrates this is Tanzania where researchers that write about wildlife do not have access to their own publications. If they are lucky they have access to copies through research fellows at universities in Europe that subscribe to the journals."

So, what do you think about United Nations initiatives like HINARI and AGORA that support development countries access to research? Several publishers are a part of these projects, and would argue that this is examples of African institutions getting access to the research they need. "The problem of the

model where the United Nations and publishers support access to research is that they only support access to some types of research and not others. For example, they will support access to health research but not research within ecology. This is exactly what I would call apartheid thinking; that somebody decides what researchers and students in these countries should have access to.”

We have so far talked about access to research in development countries. What is the situation when it comes to access to research in Norway? “Even a research institution like the University of Bergen only has access to a small amount of research literature from around the world. Many researchers do not really reflect on this. As long as they have access to traditional journals like PNAS, the Lancet and New England Medical Journal they seem to be satisfied. I would almost describe this as a naive ghetto-mentality. What about access to research publications from a country like India? India is one of the countries in the world with most research output, but where are the journals from India in Norwegian libraries? It seems like Europe and the USA are more concerned about making own research Open Access than seeing access to research in a development perspective.”

### **Promoting Open Access**

In 1988 Rune Nilsen became professor of International Health at the University of Bergen, and in the 90ies he held the chair for the National programme for development research (NUFU), where he had the possibility to work with Open Access issues. Rune Nilsen explains that the problem in this period was that the Norwegian main donors as well as the United Nations were not interested in supporting aid in the form of so called luxury items, in particular if there were digital perspectives in it. In the beginning of the 1990s research access and digital infrastructure was considered luxury and internet connection in Africa was therefore not seen as a priority.

“Still, there was some groups in Norway that were concerned about these aspects in cooperation with development countries. The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (Norwegian Rectors conference) started to ask some critical questions about research access in development countries through The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU). On the question of what to do about the unequal access to research in partnership with institutions from development countries, the answer was that researchers in development countries need equal access to knowledge, and not the apartheid-thinking that is provided through giving access to some research and not to other.”

In 1995 Rune Nilsen was asked by the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions to write a report about digital communication in the third world together with professor Gunnar Slette, a world leading researcher on satellite communication. “The hope was that the issues that were raised in the report would gain interest and would result in a policy that would take knowledge management serious; but nothing really happened until the Ministry of Foreign Affairs came with a strategy for research and higher education in relation to development countries in the year 2000. The strategy expressed an understanding that research is important for development, and that there is a need for more equal discussion and interaction between rich and poor countries when it comes to research and access to knowledge.”

In the 1990ies something else happened that would have impact for the development of Open Access in Norway. The National Library Committee and the National Research Committee under the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions started cooperating on Open Access issues. Until then it had been the university libraries that fronted the development towards Open Access. Nilsen elaborates on why this was such an important step: “Until now it had been the library directors that had the knowledge and the contacts. This connection within the higher education institutions meant that the Open Access issues were lifted to the level of the research community and their leaders, and were no longer just an issue for the libraries. Without this shift of responsibility towards the research community it would have been difficult to achieve any impact for policies promoting Open Access in Norway.”

### **The Open Access movement**

The Open Access movement was initiated by the conferences in Budapest, Bethesda and Berlin in the beginning of the 2000s. “The real Open Access activists first appeared towards the end of the 1990s. Earlier one could not talk about Open Access activism in this context. The exceptions where research communities within physics and nuclear physics where the need to disseminate research quickly created an electronic network and access to open research publications already in the beginning of the 1980s.”

Rune Nilsen says that he found it strange that so few people took interest in these issues before the Berlin Conference in 2003. In Norway there was nearly no one that was there to initiative the movement in Budapest and in later in Berlin, and there were very few people in Norway that took interest in Open Access issues. In this period Rune Nilsen was one of very few persons in Norway involved in this process, and one can ask why there still was such a lack of

interest towards these issues in Norway. He asks: "Was this because of attitude, age and conservatism within the research community, or just a lack of understanding? Today this attitude is changing, but I wonder why it took such a long time before the leadership at the universities and researchers themselves recognized the importance of these issues."

From about 2003 a change took place in Norway. The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions started to work more actively to put Open Access on the agenda. In the same period the Research Council of Norway and the Ministry of Education and Research started to see Open Access as an important issue. Even if there was a movement in the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions there was still not any change in the research community and leadership. "There was a lot of talk about a knowledge society within the research community, but no support in the knowledge institutions themselves."

### Latest development in Norway

In 2008 the Ministry of Education and Research asked the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions and the Research Council of Norway to write a report with their recommendations for an Open Access policy on a national level. Both institutions responded to this request in January 2009. In the same month the Research Council of Norway stated that all research financed by them should be made available in Open Access repositories as long as this does not conflict with author and publishers rights. Several research institutions in Norway are also working towards individual Open Access policies. Internationally, as well as in Norway, there has so far been a concentration to support Open by building an infrastructure for self-archiving in repositories, with less focus on support towards publishing in Open Access-journals.

Relating to the last development in Norway - a move towards national and institutional policies for Open Access - do you think that self-archiving is the most efficient way to achieve Open Access? Rune Nilsen answers: "I think that the latest development is important for the future of Open Access in Norway. It is important that it now has become a responsibility for the leadership at the institutions. I also believe that eventually Open Access has to become obligatory as modelled by the National Institute of Health in USA (NIH), and not a voluntary option as it is now. In the future it should also be the published version of the articles that is self-archived, because most researchers will prefer making this version available. My view is that the institutional repositories are the best instrument for Open Access that we have now. However, these repositories should mainly consist of

peer-reviewed articles, and the published version when possible, together with quality controlled doctoral theses and peer-reviewed books. Consequently, a goal for the future must be mandatory self-archiving of the final version of articles, possibly after an embargo period of about 6 months in the cases where immediate deposit is not possible."

"Another aspect that I believe is of great importance when shaping an Open Access policy is that research institutions take responsibility for managing and archiving their own knowledge creation. Who remembers to take care of everything that they have published? One can not expect the publishers to take this responsibility. A good example is an ongoing project at the University of Bergen where as much as possible of the research output of Fredrick Barth is going to be archived in the institutional repository. By doing this the University ensures that the material is available for future generations of students and researchers."

"Another issue that has been important for me is the problem that research institutions or researchers themselves do not get any economic credit for publishing Open Access. Crediting Open Access publishing economically could make more researchers interested in publishing Open Access or self-archiving their research. Telemark University College is a good example of how this can work. There is a policy under way that will give researchers from the institution economic credit for self-archiving in the institutional repository, TEORA. This could also be done at a national level, where institutions or researchers would receive publication points for making their research Open Access in addition to points for publishing in highly ranked journals. However, for some reason this does not seem to be a popular instrument towards achieving Open Access."

So, what is the most important thing you feel that you have achieved as an Open Access advocate?  
"Personally, I thought it was a victory when I managed to convince the European University Association to establish a working group for Open Access in 2007. The General Secretary in the EU displayed an interest in making knowledge available. The working group's conclusion was that research publications should be made Open Access, and the EUA adopted the principles from the report."

So, are you optimistic about the future? "Yes, I believe that there has been a dramatic change from about 2001 that gives reason for optimism. This even though a lot of the same persons are sitting in the same positions, so there has not yet been the generation shift that probably is necessary for real change. The Research Council of Norway now has a partly

mandatory policy for self-archiving. So, I believe we absolutely have come one step forward. I should think that within a period of about 5-6 years self-archiving will be mandatory in Norway. That is the way we have

to go if we wish to make our research Open Access. Workers of knowledge creation have an obligation to make knowledge available Open Access. This is the simple truth."

### Curriculum Vitae

Rune Nilsen

Professor and Director, Centre for International health, University of Bergen, Norway

Born 1948

#### Main steps in career:

2008 td	Director Centre for international health
2006	Director, Nile Basin Research programme, (UiB)
2001-2005	Deputy Rector University of Bergen, UiB
1991-1996	Director Centre for International health, UiB
1988 td	Professor International health, UiB
1981	PhD, experimental bone biology
1978 td	Consultant in diagnostic pathology (main field immune pathology)
1978	Associate professor Pathology, UiB
1975	Assistant professor General pathology, UiB
1973	DMD Dentistry, UiB

Research field: Immune pathology: Tuberculosis and leprosy, Oral cancer and tobacco, nutrition and immunology - 100 International peer reviewed articles

#### Other positions, selected:

- Head, HIV Aids research programme Tanzania, 1988-1996
- Researcher Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, 1985-87
- Chair, National programme for development research (NUFU), Norway, 1991- 2002 (chair 1998-2002)
- Government committee for new PhD and Research schools in Norway, 2002-2005
- Government committee for strengthening Women in Science, 2004-2007
- Chair, ERA MORE (EURAXESS) Norway, EU mobility programme, 2005 td
- EUA doctoral programme, 2003-2004, Leader network on Innovation
- Leader PhD training programme and conferences in European University Association (EUA), Bologna process, EC and Norway, 2002-2006
- Executive leader group for Council Graduate Schools in USA, Canada, Australia, EUA, Banff, 2007
- Chair, Committee for Open Access and Institutional Publication archives, Council of Higher education Norway, 2002-2005
- Working group for Open Access, EUA, 2007-2008
- Last years many International lectures: Examples: "Open Access and the International Knowledge societies", "Knowledge societies -- only for the rich countries", "Doctoral education in a Global context"



## A DIGITIZING PROJECT AND OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING OF AN ESTABLISHED NATIONAL JOURNAL

Kai Halttunen

### Introduction

The aim of the article is to give an overall picture of the digitalisation and Open Access publishing process of the Informaatiotutkimus (Finnish Information Studies) journal. Informaatiotutkimus is a peer-reviewed journal established 1981 in Finland. The journal publishes material in Finnish, Swedish, and in some cases in English. The journal is published as Open Access in four issues annually and as a printed fee-based yearbook in the end of the year.

The journal moved to Open Access publishing in the beginning of 2008. At the same time we started the project to digitise older material in order to provide digital Open Access to this local heritage of scientific discussion in the area. We have now almost completed our project and we are ready to share our experiences with a wider audience.

### Profile of the journal

Education and research on Information studies at university level started in 1971 when the first professorship was established at the University of Tampere. Later, departments were established also at the University of Oulu and Åbo Akademi University. The Finnish Association of Information Studies was founded at the end of the 1970's and the journal started a couple of years later. Before 1990 in Finland the discipline and other institutions, as well as the journal, were called Kirjastotiede ja informatiikka (Library Science and Informatics).

As we can see the path to an established scientific discipline followed a natural route. One of the paths is the national scientific society and the peer-reviewed journal. The status of the national journal has changed along the years. Finnish scholars in Information Studies recognised and adopted an international publishing profile already in the 1990's. The role of the national journal has been changing since. There are few established scholars who will find the motivation to publish in a national journal. Most of the writers are junior researchers in their early career and senior scholars who want to share their research results with a wider local audience. The journal is regularly publishing peer-reviewed articles, reviews, dissertation talks and discussions.

### The digitalisation project

The first ideas of the digitalisation of old material in the journal were presented at the 25th journal anniversary in 2006. A year later we got funding for the actual digitalisation from the Finnish Library Foundation and for the settlement of IPR contracts with the authors from the Finnish Association of Scientific Publishers. The actual project started with an inventory. There were about 3,000 pages of material from about 200 authors. We had no work-copies of issues from 1981-2001, so we had to work with bound volumes from the library. From 2002 onwards we had pdf-files of articles and also IPR contracts allowing us to publish them digitally.

Preparation of the older material consisted of the following. An inventory of issues along with authors was made. It was possible to download bibliographic data from the national database, but the cataloguing did not cover all material. Our project worker went through all issues and made a database containing information about authors, titles, issues, and pages. This information was used both for IPR contract handling and for exporting digitised issues to the publishing system.

After this inventory, we had basic data in order to identify authors and combine name forms. Translators were handled in the same way as authors. There were some translated articles also. Contracts for publishing were made with each author at article level. Authors could see what articles they had written for the journal and to which they gave permission to digitise and publish in the Open Access journal. The most time consuming phase was to find contact information for these 192 authors. We used the association member registry, national address services, Internet, social networks, and author affiliation at the time of publishing. Finnish authors were contacted by mail with an introductory letter, an agreement of publishing, and a return envelope. Foreign authors were approached by email. We got responses from 138 authors and all were positive. The remaining authors were contacted again, but none of them responded. We decided to publish their material also, because they had not especially denied publication.

After competitive bidding we decided to do the actual digitalisation at Helsinki University Print. For economical reasons we chose 300 dpi and 600 dpi PDF-files with text recognition and text-files from

issues. Issues were scanned manually, because we had to use bound volumes. In the early phases of the project, we wanted to have rich XML-data from the digitalisation, but found soon, that automatic methods were not capable of doing that. It would have been time consuming and very expensive to produce this kind of data. We can continue this development track because we now have good text files to work with.

As a result from the project we got PDF-files and text files of journal issues along with bibliographic and IPR data. The last phase was to split issue PDF's into article level and publish issues in the Open Journals Systems (OJS), administered by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (FFLS). This phase was done by an imported script modified at FFLS. The sScript read our bibliographic data, split PDF's to articles and imported data to OJS. The sScript is based on Articles and Issues XML Plug in of OJS. The import process went smoothly. In cross check we identified only five errors. These dated back to scanning errors. At the time of writing, material from 2002-2007 is waiting to be imported into the journal. This import follows the same basic solutions as described above. The only change is that the material already exists as PDF articles.

### **Open Access publishing of a national scientific journal**

Ideas of web publishing of our journal developed simultaneously with the digitising project. Alternatives considered for digital publishing were the following.

First, we could continue to publish a printed journal four times a year and provide the journal with a year embargo in the Elektra service provided by the Finnish National Library. Second, we could start a fee-based digital journal using the OJS system, and finally we could move to Open Access publishing and publish the journal content also as a fee-based printed yearbook.

After considering all these models along with solely OA digital publishing, we chose the OA publishing with a fee-based printed yearbook. This option was the best option after analysing our workforce and economical resources. Scientific journals get some funding from FFLS, but their funding requires additional financing from a learned society. Our up-to-date business model for publishing consists of subscription fees for the yearbook, annual support from FFLS, and sponsorship from departments of Information Science in Finnish universities.

At the time of writing the *Informaatiotutkimus* journal is available in OA from 1981 to 2001 and the volumes 2002-2007 will be made available shortly. After that *Informaatiotutkimus* will be the first Finnish journal, according to our knowledge, to cover their whole material as Open Access. After this landmark, we will start to develop a graphical lay-out and reader tools along with an optimization of editorial processes. The journal is available at <http://ojs.tsv.fi/index.php/inf/> and later at [www.informaatiotutkimus.fi](http://www.informaatiotutkimus.fi)



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## FROM REPOSITORY MANAGER WORKSHOP TO A DANISH OA NETWORK - A report from the Danish OA day 31 March 2009

Mikael K. Elbæk

### Introduction

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of March the first Danish Open access day was held as the conclusion of the 1-year DEFF<sup>1</sup> project “Public Access to Danish research”<sup>2</sup>. The Open Access day included two separate events; a Repository Manager Network Workshop and an Executive Seminar on Open Access. The first aimed at the need for defining the role of repository managers in Denmark and building a network supporting the common challenges. The second event aimed at university and research managers and people involved in publishing policies. The ambition was firstly to present facts and arguments on Open Access and make a clear case for Open Access and secondly to learn about the advances of Open Access in Norway and Denmark at the level of the ministries and university associations.

This article will focus on the result of the Repository Manager Network Workshop, which included a discovery session where common challenges for Open Access at Danish universities and research institutions were pointed out, as well as tasks to solve and possible solutions were suggested.

The project was lead by Mikael K. Elbæk from the Technical Information Center of Denmark at DTU and had participation from six university libraries, including the libraries of: Aarhus School of Business, Copenhagen Business School, University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University, University of Southern Denmark and the Technical University of Denmark.

### Public Access to Danish Research

The project was accepted by DEFF in 2008 and had kick-off on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The expected deliveries of the project were:

- To increase the number of OA full text in the participating institutions repositories with 15%
- To create a Danish Open Access wiki

- To create a network and cooperation on Open Access between Danish Universities
- To organise and hold a workshop with at least 30 participants and a presentation by at least one “big” name within Open Access.

The first delivery of a 15% increase of full texts in the repositories from the participating universities is still to be analysed. However there are good indications that the goal will be achieved at least by a number of the participating universities, i.e. Roskilde University did achieve an increase of OA content approx. 67% (622 to 1039 full texts) from April 2008 to end January 2009.

The creation of a Danish Open Access wiki has been achieved and can be found at <https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAseivarkivering/WebHome>

However keeping the wiki alive is difficult. Good intentions and promises are not always followed up by actions. Lifting the burden of making the wiki interesting and providing it with relevant information has to a large extent been on the shoulders of few rather than the intended many. The experience is useful and will be taken into consideration on future collaborative Open Access projects.

The project has created a small but strong community and network for Open Access. The challenge now is to bring this network into a larger group of interested parties and defining the aims of the network.

The goal of organising an Open Access workshop was also achieved. The initial success criteria was more than reached – having more than one “big name in OA” speaking, i.e. Alma Swan from Key Perspectives Ltd. and Sijbolt Noorda. President of the Board of Universiteit van Amsterdam. Furthermore attracting more than 70 colleagues to the workshop and seminar was very positive. However the Executive Seminar on Open Access aimed specifically at decision makers in universities and research policy making was not as present as we had hoped. It was to a large extent still the usual crowd of librarians and some interested researchers.

<sup>1</sup> Denmark’s Electronic Research Library:  
<http://deff.dk/default.aspx?lang=english>

<sup>2</sup> Project wiki hosted by DTU Library can be found at:  
<https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAseivarkivering/WebHome>

I will now present the results of the Repository Manager Network Workshop.

### Repository Manager Network Workshop

The Open Access day started with presentations of the results of the “Public access to Danish research” project, Bill Hubbard enlightened the seminar with the Sherpa experiences building the UK repository network. Finally CBS professor and project manager of Creative Commons Denmark, Thomas Riis, presented Copyrights: complications and solutions in open access/institutional repositories<sup>3</sup>.

After the inspiring talks the actual workshop was instigated. During a very intense session, having only 45 minutes, the theme of the workshop session was presented.

Firstly a joint brainstorm session was made which identified six common challenges for repository managers:

1. Authors motivation
2. Is there a Nordic Social Science Network (for repositories)?
3. How can we get into the authors workflow?
4. Top management support
5. National consensus on copyrights at universities (research publication policies)
6. Establishing a platform for knowledge sharing: a repository manager network for knowledge sharing

Secondly five smaller working groups was created (theme 2 and 6 was merged) each having the task to discuss the themes, point-out the main challenges and if possible suggest solutions and present the results in a poster format. In the following I will try to recapture the results of this work.

#### Author motivation

The question was how do repository managers get the authors motivated for open access and to self-archive in institutional repositories or subject-based repositories. The problem for many repositories is the fact that many researchers find it onerous adding their

research results to the repository and not rewarding enough, or they essentially don't care or know about Open Access. Therefore finding arguments and making the authors understand that could turn the perceived effort into an opportunity for exposing research instead of a burden.

Thus the resulting poster presented the following issues that should be solved or communicated to their researchers:

- Open Access can also give high(er) citation
- Conflicts between IR and other repositories? Publish in both IR and other repositories. At best automatically/seamless.
- Ask/talk to researchers
- PR for Open Access
- Make it easier and faster
- How can we optimize your career – what's in it for me?
- Fame, money and prestige in OA
- Branding the IR
- Get to a broader public via OA
- Work with traditional publishers
- Bind OA to research grants
- Seduce researchers to publish OA



*Ene Rammer Nielsen,  
Roskilde niversity Library*



*Sigrid Tollefsen, UHR, Norway, Jessica Lindholm,  
Malmö University College Library and IT-service,  
Nicolai Pedersen, Aarhus School of Architecture*

#### How can we get into the authors workflow?

The approach of this group was suggesting the mapping of the researcher's scholarly communication workflow. Not actually done on the day – they did however ask three important questions in regards to mapping the researchers workflow:

- When is “it” of interest to the researcher?<sup>4</sup>
- When do we appear?
- How do we create motivation?

<sup>3</sup> All where recorded and can be seen at: [https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAse/varkivering/Workshop#Repository\\_manager\\_netv\\_rks\\_work](https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAse/varkivering/Workshop#Repository_manager_netv_rks_work)

<sup>4</sup> Where it is when information about open access or the benefits of self-archiving is of interest to the authors.



The last question was approached with three possible answers:

- System user-friendliness – ease of access
- Reaching researcher ownership of Open Access
- Which means that researchers need to have knowledge about “it” in the first place.

### Top management support

One of the big challenges often mentioned by repository managers is the lack of top management support for Open Access. This is often presented as the need for university Open Access policies. This group pointed at getting a parallel support, thus working through a top-down strategy:

- Research policy, at:
  - Faculty level
  - University level
  - National level
  - Funder level

as well as a bottom-up strategy, by:

- Good examples
- Best practice
- Give the researcher a realistic opportunity.

### National consensus on copyright at universities (research publication policies)

This group started out with a short mapping on how and where research publication policies are affecting authors. Firstly the Danish universities who have pro-OA policies:

- Technical University of Denmark
- Roskilde University
- Copenhagen Business School (in progress)

Besides the universities other stakeholders were identified (policy text proposals):

- UBVA<sup>5</sup> (academic trade unions) who provides a standard contract for authors based on a “license-to-publish” like contract.
- DEFF promoting a Danish version of the “license to publish” from JISC/SURF
- SPARC author addendum

The group also discussed the pros and cons for establishing a national consensus on copyrights at universities.

<sup>5</sup> In Danish: Udvalget til beskyttelse af videnskabeligt arbejde

Speaking in favour of working for a consensus on copyright is clarity for authors (across institutions) and publishers.

Speaking against the effort is that the amount of “unrest” the policy work will create will not be in equilibrium with the potential improvements.

### Establishing a platform for knowledge sharing: a repository manager network for knowledge sharing

This group was agreeing on the need for establishing a Danish network to support the people working with repositories and OA in Denmark. In addition it was discussed what different initiatives should be taken to establish such a network and what activities the network could contain:

- Firstly get a name for the Network – was suggested by Bill Hubbard of Sherpa
- A place where you can ask “naïve” questions without being embarrassed. → make our lives easier.
- Make an e-mail list or forum
- Some sort of formal organisation
- Use stuff already out there
- There is no platform for knowledge sharing for repository managers in DK, make one!
- Mapping who is working with repositories
- Defining different roles in relation to repositories -> naming them is important
- Create a dynamic web page
- Make the wiki appetizing!

Another question that was raised was “what happens tomorrow?” stating that we all agreed on the need for an OA network, who will take the lead? Bill Hubbard from Sherpa advised not to think or start too big – on the contrary he suggested starting small and making it happen.



*Adrian Price, Faculty of Life Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Gert Poulsen, CBS Library and member of the Danish Research Library Association (DF) board suggested the creation of a DF-forum. That DF could support with a small contribution and assistance when organising meetings and seminars.

In conclusion of the groups talk it was revealed that DEFF is supporting the creation of a Danish OA network which will kick-off in June 2009.

## Conclusion and perspectives

Concluding the Open Access Day it is evident that there is still a lot of work to be done in Denmark to improve access to Danish research. It is also evident that there is great potential in improving the communication and collaboration between Open Access stake-holders and in particular repository managers.

The first step-stone will be the establishment of the Danish OA network. One very important issue is how the participating universities and research institutions will prioritise their efforts in the network. To fully utilise the benefits of a network the active participation of the nodes in the network is essential.

One way of involving people in the OA network could be to state clear and achievable goals. One of the problems of Open Access is not the idea it self, having free and non-restricted access to public research is easy to understand and mostly something people can agree on. But the execution is often perplexed by multiple stakeholders with different needs and agendas. Prioritisation of essential and achievable goals by DEFF and university libraries should be made. If inspiration is needed there is plenty to be found on the project wiki of the DEFF project “Public access to Danish research” which also includes the full reporting from the OA day.



**Mikael K. Elbæk** Systems Librarian at DTU Library, Project Manager of “Public Access to Danish research”, “Danish Open Access Network” and the National Danish Research Database

## OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS: THE SITUATION IN LITHUANIA

Jūratė Kuprienė, Dr. Žibutė Petrauskienė

Knowledge of the results of the latest achievements in science and scientific research expands the scope of attained knowledge, motivates new scientific discoveries and promotes the progress of science and economics. The necessary condition for progress is the unrestricted access to scientific information, which ensures greater visibility of scientific research results, as well as their broader use and employment. Earlier, scientists, lecturers, students and other members of society were content with access to scientific publications in subscribed journals and databases. However, constantly rising prices of subscriptions impelled us to look for new ways to ensure unrestricted scientific communication.

Increased prices of scientific journals made it difficult for scientists who publish their works in prestigious journals to recommend their articles to their students, as academic libraries often cannot afford to subscribe to those journals. Database subscription prices have been increasing each year no less than 5 percent. In 1999, due to this reason, a new movement fostering open access was started, which is acceded to by more and more institutions, which either sponsor and fund science, or are engaged in performing scientific investigations all over the world. Open access refers to free and unrestricted availability of information about scientific research results on the internet – articles, conference reports, and other published or unpublished material (e.g. report transparencies, scientific research accounts).

### The movement for open access to scientific information in Lithuania

The movement for open access to scientific information in Lithuania was initiated by UNESCO, and started when Lithuanian universities began a pilot project to create an information system for electronic theses and dissertations (ETD), which later developed into several larger projects of the Lithuanian Academic Libraries Network (LABT<sup>1</sup>). In 2003, the libraries of Vilnius University Institute of Oncology and Kaunas University of Medicine became members of BioMedCentral and started to publish articles in the “golden” open access portal BioMedCentral [4]. In 2006, the Minister of Education and Science issued an order to establish a Lithuanian information system for

electronic documents (eLABa) [6]. The system creates conditions for accumulating and disseminating scientific information, but is not obligatory for research institutions, which are totally free to join it or not. Presently eLABa has about 4,200 full text scientific publications (62, 606 REFER entries<sup>2</sup>). The most active institutions are: Kaunas University of Medicine (595 electronic documents, 12,957 REFER entries); the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences (460 documents; 7,140 entries); Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (482 documents, 5,766 entries); Klaipėda University (230 documents, 5,111 entries); the Lithuanian Academy of Physical Education (207 documents, 4,450 entries), etc. 63 scientific journals make their full text articles publicly available by means of eLABa, but only 13 journals are registered at the DOAJ<sup>3</sup>.

It is important to mention, that the most active in open access are academic libraries. The Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA)<sup>4</sup> is a member of eIFL.net<sup>5</sup> that runs the Open Access programme. The consortium organizes some events, in collaboration with the Lithuanian Academic Library Network (LABT)<sup>6</sup>, the Ministry of Science and Education, the Lithuanian Academic Publishers Association<sup>7</sup>, and the academic community.

In 2005, the Association of Lithuanian Academic Libraries organized in Vilnius the first seminar on open access to scientific communication. The well-known specialists in this field from abroad, Melissa Hagemann, Raym Crow, Lilian van der Vaart, Jean-Claude Guedon and others presented reports at the seminar. Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, from universities and scientific research centres were also invited to the seminar. In the same year, as an outcome of this seminar, a second seminar was organized at Vilnius University, this time by the Association of Lithuanian Academic Libraries together with Vilnius University Library: “The Open Access initiative – revolution in the publishing of scientific production?”[5].

On June 16th 2005, a follow-up workshop “Open

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.labt.lt/>

<sup>2</sup> REFER. entry – bibliographical description of cited documents

<sup>3</sup> Directory of Open Access Journals, <http://www.doaj.org>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lmba.lt/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eifl.net>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.labt.lt>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.akademesleidyklos.lt>

Access - Revolution in the Scholarly Publishing?" was held at Vilnius University. The target groups of the workshop were vice-rectors of the universities, policy makers for scholarly communication, and scientific community, librarians.

On October 14th 2008, a workshop "Quality Assurance of Scientific Information in Open Access" was held in Vilnius in order to commemorate Open Access Day. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Lithuanian Scientific Council, the Centre for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, and the Lithuanian research Library Consortium.

However, no provisions of the state on the open access issue have been approved; the scientific society has contradictory views on the movement. The meeting of 7th May 2008, initiated by the Ministry of Education and Science and organized together with the Association of Lithuanian Academic Libraries on issues of open access regulation in the European Union and Lithuania, also displayed ambivalent opinions. The SPARC Europe Director David Prosser was invited to this meeting as a keynote speaker. There were also Lithuanian science policy makers, experts from the Lithuanian Board of Sciences and from the Study Quality Evaluation Centre, pro-rectors for science, publishers, representatives of libraries and eLABa. Dr Prosser acquainted the audience with the main principles of open access, stricter requirements and the opening of vistas. His report inspired active discussions, during which a number of participants mostly negated the possibility of open access implementation because of publishers' copyright restrictions, because of an increased risk for plagiarism, and because it creates additional work for the scientist, who should have to negotiate with the publisher the right to include the article in an open access repository.

It is necessary to mention the investigation performed in 2008 by the Vilnius University scientists Marija Stonkienė, Zenona Ona Atkočiūnienė, and Renate Matkevičienė *Authors' rights in science communication*. One of the constituent parts of the investigation was *Science Communication: viewpoint of editors of scientific journals supported by the state of Lithuania*, which strived to analyse the viewpoints of editors-in-chief of scientific journals funded from the Lithuanian state budget. What were their views on journal publishing, on the property rights of authors, whose works are published in scientific journals, and on open access to scientific works [10] The results showed, that more than half of the respondents (52, 2 %) agreed that scientific works should be open access right away, 34, 8 % indicated that open access may be useful only sometimes, while 4, 3 % had no opinion on this issue

[10]. The results are not very gratifying – only half of the polled acknowledges the usefulness of open access without reservation. The investigation has proved once again, that the formation of views on open access is important not only among scientists, but among journal editors as well. The same investigation also examined the attitudes of scientists toward open access. It became clear, that eventually scientists regard open access positively. However, about 25 % were categorically against open access publishing of their articles; while about 68 % were undecided. [10]. The research results demonstrably showed that the prevailing approach to open access in Lithuania, both among scientific journal editors and among scientists, must be changed. Partly, this negative attitude has been formed by lack of knowledge; therefore one of the possibilities to change the situation is education, providing information, and explanatory activities. There we may see wide perspectives in library activities: libraries must take the initiative to explain to scientists what open access is and demonstrate its advantages to the public. It is important to state that academic libraries are working in this field. Specialists from the libraries (Kaunas University of Medicine, Kaunas University of Technology, Vilnius University, etc.) present papers at conferences and give lectures to scientists. Vilnius University Library prepared a *Regulations of open access to scientific information of Vilnius University*.

#### **Possibilities of access to articles published by Lithuanian scientists in foreign scientific journals**

In order to find out the possibilities of access to the research results of Lithuanian scientists, an analysis of access to articles in foreign journals written by Vilnius University scientists was performed via databases subscribed to by the Vilnius University Library. 246 peer-reviewed foreign scientific journals from various fields of science were selected for the analysis. The list of journals was compiled after looking through the Vilnius University publications database, where all bibliographic information about all publications written by Vilnius University scientists is registered. The research results showed, that 50 % of the items were accessible via full-text subscription databases, 36 % via bibliographic databases, and 14 % were not accessible at all. This analysis shows that Vilnius University scientists have no access to 14 % of the University scientific publications published in foreign scientific journals.

The analysis of the above mentioned scientific journals served another purpose as well. It tried to find out the provisions of journal publishers on open access: did publishers permit authors to deposit their publications in open access repositories and on what terms and conditions. To perform this analysis RoMEO, a

service of the project SHERPA<sup>8</sup> was used. It is an information registry of publisher policies on authors' rights, and permissions to deposit in open access repositories. The projects SHERPA and RoMEO are funded by well-known European organizations sponsoring scientific research: JISC –Joint Information Systems Committee, Open Society Institute and SOROS Foundations Network, SPARC Europe, and others. The projects are implemented at Nottingham University.

The information provided in the SHERPA RoMEO registry showed, that of the journals, where the works of Vilnius University scientists were published, 51% permit authors to place both peer-reviewed but still unpublished, and published publications in personal or institutional open access repositories. 6% permit only peer-reviewed and published publications, 9% journals – only accepted for publishing, but still not peer-reviewed and not published publications, and only 2% do not permit deposit in open access repositories. For about 32% of the journals there is no information at all.

### **The Opinion of the Scientific Committee of Rectors of Lithuanian Universities**

February 21, 2008, the Scientific Committee of the Lithuanian Rectors Conference prepared the Project answer to the recommendations of the European University Association (EUA) on open access to scientific information. It states the problem of scientific information availability to Lithuanian scientists, lecturers and other interested individuals. The current situation of open access repositories in Lithuania is overviewed, emphasizing that without a legal basis a scientist or any other interested person or institution is not guaranteed that such a repository will provide long term storage, safety and access. Due to this reason the Scientific Committee of the Lithuanian Rectors Conference assented to the recommendations of the EUA to create scientific information repositories and suggested that Lithuanian universities sustain open access ideas and support and promote development of eLABa - national repository. In addition, it was proposed to evaluate the expedience of creating separate university open access repositories and ways of ensuring the quality of scientific information placed in those repositories, and to initiate the establishing of a legal basis of author rights and the rights of depository owners. The Scientific Committee proposed to address the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science concerning financial support to publish in open access scientific journals that are included in the Directory of Open

<sup>8</sup> SHERPA [interactive]. Nottingham University, 2006 [viewed 2008-05-16]. Access via internet: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/>

Access Journals or freely accessible via scientific databases, and also to invite and promote universities to register in open access scientific portals and to pay the University member fee for publication of scientific information in open access databases [2].

Nonetheless, Lithuanian government institutions have no official position, strategies and regulations on open access to scientific information. Forming a strategy for science development more attention must be paid, first of all, to inform the Lithuanian scientific society – science strategists, directors of academic institutions, persons responsible for scientific activities in those institutions, scientists, lecturers, staff in scientific libraries – about the open access movement, its goals, advantages and the urgency of supporting it.

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## SWEDISH RESEARCHERS MEET OPEN ACCESS – Project Progress Report

Peter Linde

The project "Research Meetings on Open Access" was initiated, with funding from the program OpenAccess.se, as a continuation of the successful project "Open Access Education Package for Researchers" (2007)<sup>1</sup> which, on its part, had its origin in one of the SVEP project work packages (2005)<sup>2</sup> where the idea was to offer information about Open Access and local publishing alternatives foremost to librarians. Since then the idea of Open Access has gained a greater footing within the library world while the situation has been worse in regard to the document suppliers – the researchers. Thence the title and the continued focus on researchers in the current project.

"Research Meetings on OA" was initiated by a kick-off meeting in Karlskrona during the spring 2008. In substance the project contains three parts which will have been carried out no later than at the close of 2009:

- Organize 6 seminars on OA for researchers at 6 different Swedish universities/university colleges from north to south.
- Update and secure the administration and the continued existence of the Web information on the OA information pages (<http://www.searchguide.se/oa/>) and create a parallel site in English.
- Incorporation into the project of a selection of the partial projects of the application entitled "Open Access – A Media-Pedagogic Network".

### The Seminar Part

At the publishing of this article, 4 seminars have been carried out. The two first ones were carried out at Malmö University, October 22, and at the Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, November 20, 2008. Both seminars were well-attended with a majority of

researchers in the audience. This is how Jessica Lindholm, one of the organizers, reports from the Malmö seminar:

"Full room (ca. 75 persons – of whom 13 persons were from the library world, the rest were researchers & doctoral candidates), good discussions, our rector attended the whole time and was active... It feels great, thanks for initiating the whole thing through Jorgen's call to us a long time ago!". Presentations and video clips from the seminar can be found at <http://www.mah.se/oa08>.

The program, presentations and a video from the Sundsvall seminar are available at <http://www.bib.miun.se/publicera/openaccess/seminarium>.

The third and fourth seminars were organized at Umeå University on March 17 and the University of Kalmar in collaboration with Växjö University on April 28 this year. Here, also, the aim and direction has been to try to raise the level of awareness of local researchers regarding the ideas of the Open Access movement.

The seminar programs have been a mix of basic information about Open Access; testimonies of researcher experiences of OA publishing; discussions about how to locally manage, for example, self-archiving by means of the institute's own publishing system; how are bibliometrics measurements affected by Open Access and vice versa. The programs have varied but Open Access has always been the keynote.

### The Grand Finale

The fifth seminar is under planning and will probably be organized at the university college of Dalarna in the autumn of 2009. For the concluding seminar in Gothenburg the preliminary date has been set to November 5. The Gothenburg seminar is planned as a major arrangement with 1 or 2 internationally known speakers. It is, in the first place, Birgitta Stevinger at the University of Gothenburg and Maria Kinger at Chalmers who will be organizing the seminar on premises at the University of Gothenburg.

In the project group we have discussed a preliminary program which will reflect the contents of the seminars that have been carried out throughout the country during the year even if we at this point are trying to lift our gaze and offer some international prospects. The working theme is: "Open Access – Visibility and

<sup>1</sup> Education Package on OA.

<http://www.kb.se/OpenAccess/nyheter/2007/Utbildningspaketom-OA/>

<sup>2</sup> SVEP - Samordning av den svenska högskolans elektroniska publicering [SVEP – Coordination of the electronic publishing of the Swedish universities/university colleges]. Final report project 3,4 and 5.

[http://www.kb.se/Dokument/Bibliotek/projekt/svep\\_dp3\\_5\\_slutrapport.pdf](http://www.kb.se/Dokument/Bibliotek/projekt/svep_dp3_5_slutrapport.pdf)

Impact". Our hopes are to get Jens Vigen, director of the CERN library, to give a presentation, and also to be able to invite a representative from the PLoS.

### Open Access Information

In the project "OA Education Package for Researchers" we constructed an information platform based on the blog tool WordPress – Open Access Information (<http://www.searchguide.se/oa/>). English translations of the information texts which form part of this resource have through the new project been put up at a newly made parallel site in English (<http://www.searchguide.se/oa/eng/>).

We have decided to keep using the WordPress platform as it is free and easy to manage. The earlier interface has been entirely revised to increase accessibility. The texts on the sites have been updated. It is now up to each project member to go into WordPress and make changes when need arises. Passwords have been distributed and the updating is now such a simple process that each and everyone can manage this. What remains is a discussion about how the site should be managed regarding continuous updating after the close of the project. This discussion will be held on a running basis during 2009 before a final decision will be made regarding how administration, updating and ownership matters should finally be managed.

Teaching media on Sherpa/Romeo have been supplied lately. A PowerPoint presentation on DOAJ and Journal Info are now also available. A number of brief interviews with NCSC participants regarding OA matters, from the spring conference 2008 in Lund, have been put up on the site as well as on Youtube.com (<http://www.youtube.com/oascience>).

A user poll was carried out in the autumn 2008. The result shows that the respondents throughout are fairly satisfied with the improvements that have been made in the interface. A statistics module was introduced on October 20, 2008. A look at the statistics barely 6 months later (April 16, 2009) shows that the Swedish Open Access Information site has had ca. 13,000 visits of which ca. 2,400 were unique visitors. Resources that are frequently visited are, among others, "Goda exempel och länkar" [Good examples and links], "Vetenskaplig kommunikation – en bakgrund..." [Scientific communication – a background], "Ladda ner PowerPoints" [Download PowerPoints], "Handledning Sherpa/RoMEO" [Guidance Sherpa/RoMEO]... but it seems, generally, as if most resources, such as texts, PowerPoint and PDF files, have been utilized to the same high degree.

For the English site the numbers are somewhat lower. Ca. 8,000 visitors of which 1,500 unique visitors since October 20. Resources which are regularly used are "

The OAI-PMH Protocol and Search Services", "Publishing in Open Archives", "Introduction and Background to Open Access Journals" and "Good Examples and Links" together with "Download PowerPoints". About 200 unique visitors continuously per week has to be considered as okay given that we have not carried out any major marketing work. The fact that the project has achieved something that is really used, and not only by Swedes but by visitors from the whole world, is something that feels really good.

### Oasis!

Initiated by, among others, Alma Swan, Key Perspectives and Leslie Chan there is now, at the University of Toronto in Canada, a project which to some extent resembles ours, with the attempt of building up an international information service about Open Access matters. We have contacted this sister project in Canada called "OASIS" via letters to Leslie Chan. In January 2009 he responded in the following way to the question whether they had found any water yet: "There is definitely water waiting to be unleashed! But as you noted, we have been working in the background mostly..."

The work with OASIS is in progress full steam. And it is an ambitious project based on non-profit work and donations. Presently they are working with the texts in the different sections. Leslie describes this work in the same letter: "You will see the full list of content and topics that we intend to cover. The librarians section is more fully developed at the moment, followed by the researchers section. Clearly there are areas of overlap with your project and it would be great if we could share resources and

cross-linking. As you will see the design of the site, we are trying to make the content more user specific, the assumption being that different communities have different motivation for engaging in OA and their involvement would also be different. If you go to our test site you will see what I mean:

<http://www.openoasis.org/test/>"

We will take contact again with Chan in order to follow up on the development and possibly see if we may offer anything within the framework of our project.

### Open Access – A Media-Pedagogic Network

During the course of the project it has proven difficult to live up to the goal of incorporating into the project of Research Meetings the partial project "A Media-Pedagogic Network" which formed part of the Open.Access.se application. Only the idea of producing 2 brief video films has been carried out. The films "Open Access – vad är det" [Open Access – what is it] and "Open Access – parallellpublicering är



enkelt!” [Open Access – self-archiving is easy!] have been created in collaboration with Annika Koldenius, Digital Media at the University of Gothenburg. The original plan of 3 films at 3 minutes has been abandoned as the costs were too high. The two films are accessible from the Open Access Information site and from YouTube.com, and also from the DelaLika channel at UR access:

<http://uraccess.navicast.net/> (click on DelaLika); the OER Web site Digiref.se:

<http://www.digiref.se/> (search on, for example, "open access").

The study of accessibility to OA resources in collaboration with TPB has been discontinued.

### **The Drop and the Stone**

The awareness among researchers of open access increases daily but from knowing about the phenomenon to actively engaging is still a long step. With the seminar series and the information site we believe that we have improved the starting point for the researchers who want to give it a try and who want to invest in an open distribution of their research results. For Open Access to become a dominating publishing form it is required that, as number one, the researchers know about the idea and the possibility. It is here that our project has been useful and this is also the crucial point - constant dripping wears away the stone!

Of course there also have to be guiding policy decisions from leaderships and authorities; tools that facilitate the actual publishing and national/international coordination of good forces. But this is something which we trustingly leave to other projects to deliver.

What remains to be done in this project is to discuss suitable forms for continuous operation and updating of our information site for open access. This discussion will be brought up during the autumn 2009 which is also the period for the realization of the last seminar, which we hope will turn into a "grand finale" with internationally known lecturers and many visitors. Be seeing you then!

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