

12/2 2009

**OA and the Research councils in Norway and Sweden. The latest news.**

**Norway:** The Norwegian Research Council (NFR) adopted an OA mandate January 28. Guiding principles are that all research funded by the NFR shall be deposited in open archives if not in conflict with copyright agreements. NFR also accepts Open Access journal publishing but finds that the Open Access Archives constitute the best solution.

**Sweden:** Just before Christmas the Swedish Research Council decided to [postpone](#) their long awaited Open Access Mandate

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**FINLAND**

**New chair for Finnish Open Access working group (FinnOA).**

LL.D. Marjut Salokannel was elected new chair for the FinnOA group 21.10.08.

FinnOA was founded in April 2003 and is an unofficial body promoting open access to scholarly literature in Finland. The members represent faculty, researchers, scholarly publishers and libraries. FinnOA advocates open access among others by arranging seminars. In the years 2006-2007 FinnOA administered the project OA-JES promoting OA in three main areas: providing information, building of repositories and starting a platform for society publishers to publish OA. (From Turid Hedlund)

**NORWAY**

At the conference *Money talks – New institutional policies in scholarly publishing* (Tromsø 28 Nov 2008), two of the speakers gave some insights into current top level discussions about OA in Norway.

*Øystein Johannessen*, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Education and Research, said that the Ministry was looking into the possibility of stimulating more Open Access publishing. They have sought the advice of both the Association of Higher Education Institution (UHR) and the Research Council of Norway (NFR). Should the Ministry mandate self-archiving of publicly funded research? What would the legal, technical, communicational, economical, administrative, and possible other consequences be if such a mandate were enacted?

Solutions should, as far as possible, ensure both good coordination between different sectors and necessary practical adaptations for researchers in those sectors. The Norwegian government investigation NOU 2008:14 *Samstemt for utvikling? (Consensus for Development?)* proposed that Norwegian public research institutions, as well as recipients of public research money, make their results available in Open Access databases.

*Mandated Open Access to research funded by NFR?* was the title chosen by **Anders Hanneborg**, Director of the Division for Science at the Research Council of Norway (NFR). They are currently working on a policy regarding both self-archiving and Open Access publishing. NFR is also providing the Ministry of Education and Research with advice on what measures to use for promoting Open Access, especially if self-archiving of publicly funded research should be mandated by the Ministry. NFR is considering a pilot project within medicine and natural sciences and the possibility to increase access to results by making OA mandatory for all grantees. This presumes that the legal situation is clear and that the necessary infrastructure is in place.

(Summary by Ingegerd Rabow)

Link to the conference programme and the presentations (mostly in Norwegian )

[http://www2.uit.no/www/ansatte/organisasjon/Arrangementer/artikkel?p\\_document\\_id=81286&p\\_dimension\\_id=29234](http://www2.uit.no/www/ansatte/organisasjon/Arrangementer/artikkel?p_document_id=81286&p_dimension_id=29234)

### **A Norwegian Open Access Mandate,**

November 25, 2008 the *Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services* (Nasjonalt kunnskapssenter for helsetjenesten, NoKC) adopted an **Institutional Policy for Open Access to Scientific Publications**. All scientific publications by their staff must be deposited in **HeRA**, the Helsebiblioteket (Health Library) Research Archive. The metadata and the full-text must be deposited immediately upon acceptance for publication. The full-text will be released in accordance with publisher policies,, but the metadata will be free at once.

The Knowledge Centre supports the Berlin Declaration. This is behind their wish to ensure that their researchers choose publication channels allowing Open Access, project manager Sigrun Espelien Aasen says. She encourages Norwegian health institutions with research activity to register in HeRA, at present including 11 institutions.

Sigrun also recommends these institutions to adopt similar policies, and refers to the statement of the *Ministry of Education and Research* that they wish to stimulate more Open Access. (as mentioned above) and she expects a policy decision in February next year. The HeRA content is also retrievable through *NORA- the Norwegian Open Research Archive* and through search engines. The *Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services* was founded in 2004, and is organised under the *Norwegian Directorate of Health* but is scientifically and professionally independent.

Link to the HeRA website (in Norwegian) <http://www.kunnskapssenteret.no/Nyheter/4768.cms>

Link to the Policy (in English)

[http://hera.openrepository.com/hera/bitstream/10143/41633/7/OApolicy\\_NOKC\\_251108.pdf](http://hera.openrepository.com/hera/bitstream/10143/41633/7/OApolicy_NOKC_251108.pdf)

Link to NoKC (English\_) <http://www.kunnskapssenteret.no/About+us>

Link to NORA <http://www.ub.uit.no/wiki/openaccess/index.php/NORA>

## **SWEDEN**

### **The Swedish Research bill and Open Access - what happened?**

In our previous issue [<http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/view/658/451>] we published a notice about the letter that the Swedish Research Council, The Association of Swedish Higher Education, and the National Library of Sweden had sent to the Minister for Higher Education and Research, proposing that the Minister include support for Open Access in the forthcoming Research Bill. The signatories requested both general support for developments leading to OA, and that the Ministry should take a stand on certain central issues: 1) whether governmental funding agencies should be encouraged to require Open Access, 2) governmental support for the continued development of the infrastructure for Institutional Repositories, and 3) that public subsidies for Swedish scholarly journals should be used to promote Open Access publishing models.

A couple of benevolent phrases on Open Access were included in the Research Bill, and some national and international initiatives were mentioned, but no actual decisions were made. Vänsterpartiet (The Left Party of Sweden) responded to the Research Bill with a committee motion to the Swedish Riksdag (Parliament). Their motion covers many issues in the Bill and Open Access is one of them. After giving a short background to the OA movement the motion concludes that it is reasonable to require that all publicly funded research be made freely available. The Swedish Research Councils should mandate Open Access to research supported by them.

Vänsterpartiet proposes (proposal no 25) that the Parliament announce as their opinion to the Government, that research funded by the Swedish Research Councils be freely available. (Report Ingegerd Rabow)

### **Open Access in Swedish Private Sector R&D.**

One of the projects within the Swedish National Library's programme OpenAccess.se will soon release its project report called *Open Access in Swedish Private Sector R&D*.

The project reports that there is less knowledge and awareness of Open Access within companies than at universities. The publishing practices, and to a lesser extent the reading practices, of scientific articles are less frequent within companies. This could lead to a skewed funding situation for a future Open Access-economy based on an "author-pays" model. When discussing how companies might pay for Open Access the suggestion from the project report is to guard the flow of information so that access to scientific data does not become limited for companies and industry in a new way, as is already seen by some Open Access journals. The usage of Open Access publications for companies is unfortunately not as straightforward as one might wish. Researchers' access to information should be the same irrespective of where they work.

Project participants have been Lund University Libraries and AstraZeneca R&D.

The report will soon be available at <http://www.kb.se/english/about/projects/openaccess/projects/>

## INTERNATIONAL

*ELPUB 2009 - Rethinking Electronic Publishing: Innovation in Communication Paradigms and Technologies*  
13th International Conference on Electronic Publishing 10 - 12 June 2009, Milan, Italy more information: <http://www.elpub.net/>

*9th International Bielefeld Conference 2009, 3 to 5 February 2009*

Upgrading the eLibrary Enhanced Information Services Driven by Technology and Economics  
The programme includes contributions by Herbert Van de Sompel, Carol Tenopir, Sijbolt Noorda, Wendy Pradt Lougee, Isidro F. Aguillo Caño, Claudia Lux, Mario Campolargo plus many more.:  
<http://conference.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/2009/programme/>

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15/10 2008

### **Will the Swedish Research Bill include support for Open Access?**

The Swedish Research Council, The Association of Swedish Higher Education, and the National Library of Sweden have all signed a letter to the Minister for Higher Education and Research, proposing that the Minister include support for Open Access in the forthcoming Research Bill. These three key stakeholders argue that public investments in research would be more cost-efficient if research results were easily accessible for all potential users, both nationally and internationally. Global visibility and Open Access increase the impact of Swedish research. "

#### *Three important issues*

First of all, the signatories request that the Research Bill declare a general support for developments leading to OA. They also stress the importance of the Ministry taking a stand on certain central policy issues. Governmental funding agencies should be encouraged to require their grantees to publish their results with Open Access, unless restricted by specific circumstances. The Ministry should give clear support to the continued development of the infrastructure for Open Archives (Institutional Repositories). The public subsidies for Swedish scholarly journals should be used to promote a change to Open Access publishing models.

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## Open Access to Nobel Prize awarded work – a pilot project

The Nobel Prize is the world's most prestigious scientific award, highlighting truly groundbreaking research and providing a window to the world of research to the general public.

The pilot project involves the creation of a work-flow and a method for the achievement of free and open access to key publications of Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine at Nobelprize.org. The pilot project will investigate publisher and copyright issues, accessibility to materials from different time periods, etc. Three Nobel Laureates from each Nobel Prize category and from each of three identified time periods will be selected to be included in the pilot project.

The pilot project will not only result in free, world-wide access to some of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's key scientific publications, but will also draw further attention to Open Access as an alternative way of publishing.

After the pilot project a project plan will be developed for a full scale Open Access project, including key publications of all Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine.

The project starts in the fall of 2008 and will end in early fall 2009. It is funded by the *Swedish National Library* [<http://www.kb.se/hjalp/english/>] and the *Swedish Knowledge Foundation* [<http://www.kks.se/templates/StandardPage.aspx?id=84>] within the framework of the *OpenAccess.se development program* [<http://www.kb.se/english/about/projects/openaccess/>].

*Nobel Web* [<http://nobelprize.org/>] manages Nobelprize.org, the official web site of the Nobel Foundation. Providing a wealth of background to every Nobel Prize since 1901, the site presents the Nobel Lectures, biographies, interviews, photos, articles, video clips, press releases, educational games and more information about the Nobel Prize, the Nobel Laureates and their works.

*Lund University Libraries' head office* [<http://www.lub.lu.se/en>] has experience in working with Open Access publishing, in running an institutional repository and in developing and maintaining library internet services. The library is furthermore in possession of large literature collections whereof much older material will be readily available for digitization, an area where the library already has experience and equipment.

*The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences* [[http://www.kva.se/KVA\\_Root/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.kva.se/KVA_Root/index_eng.asp)] and the *Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet* [<http://www.mednobel.ki.se/>], respectively, who manage the nomination- and selection processes of the Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine, will secure the quality of the selection of key publications.

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15/10 2008

## European Conference on Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine and Medicine (ECSP)

The second meeting in the conference series, European Conference on Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine and Medicine (ECSP), 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2008, took place at the Rikshospitalet in Oslo Norway. The ECSP series originated at the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden and was launched for the first time in Lund in 2006. The mission to be relevant to researchers and important for publishers has been retained and ESCP2 provided a forum for debate on two main issues, Open Access - what it is, why it is necessary and how to achieve it - and the assessment of

research (bibliometrics, scientometrics). The workshop programme covered many practical aspects, including the use of biomedical databases, writing a scientific article and publishing Open Access journals. The first main session on Open Access, policy making and research was introduced by Dr Noorda; president of the Dutch Research Universities Association and chairman of the European University Associations' steering group on Open Access. View the ECSP2 abstracts, power point presentations, and blog here: <http://www.ub.uio.no/umh/ecspbiomed/program.html>

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## AN OPEN MIND TOWARDS OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING-

An interview with Bo-Christer Björk

Turid Hedlund

### Introduction

Bo-Christer Björk is since 2000 professor in information systems at the Hanken School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland. Before that he had a career as professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. For the international OA community Bo-Christer Björk is a well known speaker, and he was one of the first advocates of open access in Finland. In this interview Bo-Christer Björk gives his view on open access publishing.

### Interview

**If you look back at your working experience from both Sweden and Finland, what do you see as the major differences in the university sector in these countries?**

During the first few days at KTH in Stockholm I learned a new Swedish term, “förankring”. An organizational change process was under way and it was important that everybody’s voice was heard. In Finland we have a tradition for more authoritarian management from the top. Also Finnish students seem to be shy to ask questions and discuss in class.

**During your years in Stockholm you became acquainted with the new ways of publishing on the Internet and you also started an open access journal. Can you tell us how this initiative took place?**

The idea occurred to me during a train ride from Turku to Espoo (on the way home to the family, I commuted weekly to my job in Stockholm). I had colleagues in my research field, construction IT, that were very excited about the possibilities offered by the world wide web. I then started to discuss the ideas with them (in particular Prof. Ziga Turk from Slovenia) and the project took off.

**Is the field of science that you represent particularly suited for open access publishing, and how was your initiative and journal received among your research community?**

Quite well suited since we study how a particular industry could be made more efficient by the use of IT

and Web-connected collaboration tool. Also there are many practitioners who might have an interest in our articles, but who rarely can justify paying expensive subscriptions. After a bit of struggle in the beginning to attract enough high-quality subscriptions the journal took off in 2001 and is currently publishing 30-50 peer-reviewed articles per year.

**The journal you started is still an active open access journal, how do you see the future for this type of journals that are published mainly with voluntary human resources?**

There is a niche for journals run in this “Open source” mode, but if Open Access is going to become the dominating mode of scholarly publishing, the big existing publishers have to SWAP business model. It will be very interesting to see what happens to BioMedCentral after being acquired by Springer. The initiative from “CERN and friends” to procure the services of the major physics journals for open access distribution is also very interesting.

**When you returned to Finland and the Hanken School of Economics your research interests changed and you became an active researcher in the field of scientific publishing. You also became the first advocator of open access in Finland. Can you tell us how this happened?**

Together with my colleague from Slovenia, Professor Ziga Turk we managed to get funding from the EC for a project (SciX) which was partly research, partly a pilot of a subject-based repository. We organized a small workshop to present the results of the project for stakeholders in Finland and at this workshop the idea to set up a national work group to promote OA came up. I believe it was Kristiina Hormia from the National Library who suggested this. I suppose they asked me to chair the work group because most of the activists were from the library or publication sector and it was thought to be better to have a scientist as figurehead.

**The FinnOA working group that you chaired from the start in 2003 until the end of 2008 has been one of the main actors in promoting the change to open access publishing in Finland. How do you see**

**this process and what have been the major steps and achievements during these years?**

A lot of progress has been made. Awareness is certainly on a higher level now and institutional repositories have been or are being set up in most universities. The first milestone was a very successful national OA conference in 2004, which included many internationally known speakers. We got a full page coverage in Helsingin Sanomat, the main Finnish newspaper. The second milestone consisted of the guidelines published by a committee appointed by the Ministry of Education, of which I was also a member. Perhaps the third milestone is the OA publishing mandate of the University of Helsinki, which will be in effect from the start of 2010.

**You recently published an article estimating the prevalence of open access articles. How do you see the future for open access?**

Over the years my enthusiasm has been moderated a bit by seeing how complex this change process is. But our studies are showing that about 30 % of all newly founded journals are OA so this helps raise the overall share. I'm currently particularly interested in how existing publishers could swap business model, perhaps with the help of institutional agreements tying "Open Choice" payments on a large scale to big deal subscription licenses. I also see delayed OA as a possible route, since a lot of the most value-adding reading is done based on citations, and here a delay or a year is not so critical.

I'm a bit less optimistic about the green route, and I think proponents of that underestimate the problem involved with versions that differ from the actually published version. I don't really believe in mandates but rather in carrots to make authors upload their manuscripts to repositories.

**What will be your future research topic in the field of open access?**

In the near future, at least collecting robust data on how common OA is in different disciplines, regions and using gold or green channels. We just received funding from the Nordbib programme to do a study called the OA barometer!

*Thank you professor Björk for this interview, and we hope to be able to return to the results of this OA barometer study in a later issue of ScieCom info.*

[Turid Hedlund](#)



## THE NORWEGIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ADOPTS AN OPEN ACCESS POLICY

Jan Erik Frantsovåg

The first research funder's open access policy in the Nordic-Baltic region was adopted by The Research Council of Norway (Forskingsrådet) in January 28th 2009. The Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) could have beaten Forskningsrådet to the first place, but in their December meeting decided not to make mandatory deposit a contract element – yet.

A full list of Norwegian open archives is available at the [openaccess.no](http://openaccess.no) wiki. Of 30 government-funded universities and university colleges only two have neither an archive nor any concrete plans of establishing one. 24 archives are up and running with documents in them, while another three regional colleges only have to start putting documents into their archives. The Oslo University College has decided to establish an archive, and is currently establishing and manning an archive project to this effect. In the research institute sector, comprising some 60-80 institutions, depending on definitions, the coverage is not at all that good, only some 10-15 institutions have an archive ready for use. The situation is the same in the non-governmental college sector (Some 30 institutions currently with 7 archives). However, through the services of Bibsys Brage <http://www.bibsys.no/wps/wcm/connect/BIBSYS+Eng/> and HeRA, <http://hera.helsebiblioteket.no/hera/pages/about.html> any institution can establish an archive in a short time and at low cost. Therefore, archive coverage is not really an issue in the Norwegian discussion.

How forceful is the Norwegian decision? It is not a policy marked by use of brute force. It is too early to be sure about details; only a policy has been adopted, and the actual rules and procedures are to be worked out during 2009. The policy is – for the time being – limited to articles in scientific journals. It says, that Open Access should not in principle be limited to journal articles, but as this is the dominating form of scientific publishing, it is deemed convenient to limit

the policy to journal articles at this stage.

Forskingsrådet is explicitly reluctant to mandate a depositing regime that may infringe upon the scientists' right to choose their publishing venues freely, or that may conflict with publishers' rights. The policy states, that journal articles built upon research funded, wholly or in part, by Forskningsrådet, shall be deposited in an institutional archive if one exists. The policy does not state what to do if the author's institution has no archive. It seems that a subject-based repository will be an acceptable solution, but there is no reference to any "archive of last resort" for authors without an archive. It may seem that the policy only will have effect for authors having an institutional archive at hand. If the author publishes in a journal that does not allow such self-archiving, and the author receives a negative reply to a request for permission, the author will be exempt from complying with the mandate.

In other words, what this policy mandates is about, more or less, is that academic authors actually exercise the rights and permissions they already have. That is, if they publish in a journal that permits self-archiving, they have to make use of this possibility. It does not make a forceful stand against journal or publisher policies, or tries to effect fundamental change, but points to possibilities available already and demands that they be exploited.

It is a start. Hopefully, it does not end here.

[Jan Erik Frantsovåg](#)





## GREATER ACCESS TO NORWEGIAN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Sigrid Tollefsen

### Introduction

In a letter dated 2 June 2008, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research requested that the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (Universitets- og høskolerådet, UHR) advise the Ministry on which measures should be prioritized to stimulate an increase in the Open Access publication of peer-reviewed scientific articles.<sup>1</sup>

The Ministry requested proposals on measures directed at encouraging self-archiving as well as other Open Access publishing activities, with an aim of increasing the availability of research results through encouraging use of Open Access.

UHR presented its report on 30 January 2009.<sup>2</sup> The following is a summary of the main proposals and background to the report.<sup>3</sup>

### The UHR and its approach to Open Access issues

The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) is a membership organisation for all Norwegian universities and colleges and is their most important arena for cooperation. UHR is tasked with delivering collective opinions and information to the Norwegian Parliament and Government and is a key player within the political educational and research arenas.

UHR has worked for open access to research results over a longer period of time and since 2003 has arranged a number of seminars and meetings on the topic. Already in 2005, UHR submitted a letter to its member institutions summarizing its views and measures that ought to be taken.<sup>4</sup> Among other things, our recommendations included the establishment of institutional archives, the deposition of published articles in these archives and publishing in Open Access journals. UHR has actively followed European developments in this area. Among other

things, we were one of the initiators behind the European University Association's (EUA) creation of a working group for Open Access in 2007 and a Norwegian participated in this group. In early 2008, we arranged a meeting between UHR's Research Committee and Sijbolt Noorda, who led the EUA's working group on Open Access. UHR's strategy for 2008-2010 also addresses Open Access, stating that UHR will continue to be "a driving force so that the research community, nationally and internationally, shall have free access to scientific results (Open Access)".

UHR delegated Open Access issues to UHR's Research Committee, which appointed a working group to answer the request submitted by the Ministry of Education and Research. Members of the working group had both scientific competence and juridical competence. The working group's secretariat has been in extensive dialogue with numerous Norwegian Open Access environments within the universities and colleges, who provided important input and information. Moreover, the group also consulted external parties, such as labour unions, the publishing industry and authors' associations, to gather their views on which measures should be prioritized.

Similar to the UHR, the Norwegian Research Council also received a request from the Ministry, who asked the research council and UHR to coordinate their efforts and avoid overlap. A very good dialogue was established with the Research Council during the process.

The Research Council has worked in parallel with the UHR working group in order to clarify its principles in relation to Open Access, and principles for access to scientific publications were adopted at a board meeting in late January 2009. Among other things, these principles demand that scientific publications emanating from projects financed by the Research Council shall be deposited in public archives and made publicly available. The working group is positive to the Research Council's Open Access policy, as this can contribute to more research results being made freely available. By taking a position, key institutions can have a positive effect, and it is likely that the adoption of the policy by the Research Council will have a positive impact upon the strategies and practices adopted by Norwegian universities and colleges.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.uhr.no/documents/fra\\_KD\\_om\\_OA.pdf](http://www.uhr.no/documents/fra_KD_om_OA.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> The report is available in Norwegian at [http://www.uhr.no/documents/Rapport\\_fra\\_Open\\_Access\\_arbeids\\_gruppe.pdf](http://www.uhr.no/documents/Rapport_fra_Open_Access_arbeids_gruppe.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> This English summary was translated from the original by Caroline Sutton.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.uhr.no/documents/05\\_29\\_Brev\\_medl.inst.\\_pne\\_arki\\_ver.doc](http://www.uhr.no/documents/05_29_Brev_medl.inst._pne_arki_ver.doc)

The Ministry has asked for counsel on peer-reviewed scientific articles that are published in journals and anthologies. The working group has based its work on UHR's definition of scientific publishing from 2004 in its publication "A Bibliometric Model for Performance-based Budgeting of Research Institutions" (in Norwegian, *Vekt på forskning*).<sup>5</sup> The Ministry has stressed that measures shall not be introduced that jeopardize academic freedom; researchers shall remain free to choose which journals they publish in.

Because of the limited scope of the Ministry's request, monographs and textbooks are not considered in the report. Open Access publishing of PhD dissertations also falls outside the report as do other student theses and reports. However, this does not mean that these are not important tasks for institutions to consider. Other intersecting Open Access issues such as access to research data,<sup>6</sup> e.g. the OECD principles and guidelines for access to publicly financed research data and access to teaching materials, are neither considered in the report.

### Summary of the Working Group's Recommendations

UHR's report recommends a number of specific measures that can contribute to making research results more openly available.

The initiation of measures to improve access to publicly financed research is of interest for several reasons. Research becomes more international through increased cooperation with other Nordic and European countries and with larger research nations outside of Europe. Cooperative research efforts are consolidated when large and complex projects, research networks and research centres are established across disciplinary, institutional and national boundaries.

Information formats and the use of information are increasingly digitalized and references to e-science and e-research denote this digitalization. Younger researchers increasingly demonstrate a high level of digital competence and greater expectations to digital services and rapid access to research materials and information. More and more, researchers prefer digital search tools for information discovery that provide easy access to content through the internet.

<sup>5</sup> See: [http://www.uhr.no/documents/Rapport\\_fra\\_UHR\\_prosjektet\\_4\\_1\\_1\\_engCJS\\_endelig\\_oversettelsen.pdf](http://www.uhr.no/documents/Rapport_fra_UHR_prosjektet_4_1_1_engCJS_endelig_oversettelsen.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> OECD Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/61/38500813.pdf>

In other words, we find ourselves in the midst of a transitional process in which technological developments, the organisation of research and user behaviours have important consequences for the possibility to access and utilise free access to research results. It is of course impossible to predict future developments, but UHR's working group believes that increased access to Norwegian research results will be a prerequisite for Norwegian researchers being able to fully participate in the international research community.

Publishing and the quality of publications produced by Norwegian researchers has generally been addressed in recent years and has brought researchers' attention to publishing issues. An evaluation of scientific publications as one criterion in the system of financing research departments and institutions has contributed to increased attention to publishing and a more conscious choice of publishing outlets among Norwegian researchers. An increase in international publications emanating from Norwegian researchers and an almost complete overview of Norwegian scientific publications has also resulted.

UHR's working group suggests that access to scientific results is an important political question. Norwegian authorities have been more committed to making information and research results more visible and accessible in recent years, as expressed in a number of public reports and parliamentary white papers. This, coupled with the attention to quality publications described above, provide a good basis for further developing good practices in this area. Moreover, Norway was a forerunner in implementing registration of scientific articles nationally and is thus in an excellent position to also be a forerunner in creating free access to the nation's scientific publications. To these ends, UHR investigated what proportion of Norwegian research articles published during the period 2005-2006 could in theory have been deposited in an institutional archive. The study showed that 47% of published articles potentially could have been made available in institutional archives, while the corresponding figure for 2007 was 40%. Both studies were based on information listed on the Sherpa/Romeo website.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The Sherpa/Romeo web service operated by the University of Nottingham is believed to have the most complete overview of publishers' copyright policies regarding self-archiving, <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>. However, studies conducted by UHR showed that Sherpa/Romeo does not cover Norwegian and Nordic publishers very well at the journal level, and the working group suggests that Sherpa/Romeo be encouraged to expand coverage to also include Norwegian and Nordic journals that Norwegian researchers publish in.

In Norway we have made great progress with respect to establishing open, institutional archives, but the work of developing strategies and anchoring the use of archives and publishing in Open Access journals among institutions, remains. Libraries have had and will continue to have a supporting role and be a driving force, but we cannot move forward without this having a foothold among academics themselves.

A positive attitude towards Open-Access initiatives by the Ministry of Education and Research will have great importance for developments within institutions. The Ministry should therefore support free access when shaping policies and consider Open Access when it evaluates universities and colleges. Moreover, it should encourage institutions to develop strategies and guidelines that contribute to Open Access to scientific publications within their research strategies.

The long-term goal should be that all scientific articles that result from publicly financed research should be freely available, as long as there are no special reasons for why access should be limited. The short-term goals should be that 50% of all scientific articles published in journals are open by 2015. To achieve this goal, researchers themselves must recognize the benefits of free access and be willing to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by new technology.

The Ministry of Education and Research should prioritise supporting further development and use of institutional archives. (This does not exclude publishing in Open Access journals.) To achieve this, institutions must have a conscious approach to quality and to what they wish to use their institutional archives for.

The working group distinguishes between self-archiving and the provision of public access to published articles. The group suggests that institutions can demand the deposition of scientific publications in the interests of transparency, retesting of results, and maintaining institutional records. The deposition of copies of published articles will not automatically lead to access; the consent of the researcher is also required. The group believes that the majority of those who are asked to make their publications available will provide their consent, if they are well-informed, legal questions are answered and the proper infrastructure is in place.

A good infrastructure involves the creation of archives that are easy to use. It is advantageous if the full-text archive is directly linked to the research documentation system. In October 2008 a working group appointed by the Ministry of Education and Research recommended the implementation of a collective database for scientific publication, the

Norwegian Science Index (*Norsk vitenskapsindeks, NVI*).<sup>8</sup> This system can be used both as a tool for profiling publications in addition to serving as complete research documentation system.

Currently little attention is directed to the negotiation of access to license-based journals in relation to Open Access, particularly with respect to preservation and access in institutional archives. The working group suggests that one should investigate the possibilities of negotiating rights in contracts with publishers to make possible preservation and access in institutional archives. Because access to information is of critical importance to policies on research and education, the Ministry of Education should involve itself in negotiations in order to achieve good national licensing agreements for UH institutions.

Institutions should provide for administrative evaluation of deposition, copyright and licensing terms and availability and have a communication plan that clearly identifies the advantages of Open Access. They should also encourage researchers to insist at the time of publication upon retaining their right to make their work available in archives of their choice. This will require resources, and in the short-run we cannot expect this to result in a reduction in prices.

To summarise, the Ministry of Education and Research, in addition to opinion-building, should prioritise the following measures at a national level:

- Establish the Norwegian Science Index (NVI) with links to institutional archives.
- Initiate negotiations with publishers on national subscription and licensing agreements.
- Maintain NORA (Norwegian Open Research Archive), in the first instance for the current year. Its function should be later evaluated in light of NVI.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education and Research should evaluate measures to cover the costs of publishing in Open Access journals.

To avoid possible unforeseen consequences of these measures, the Norwegian publishing market should be followed closely.

<sup>8</sup> See:

[http://www.nifustep.no/norsk/publikasjoner/norsk\\_vitenskapsindeks](http://www.nifustep.no/norsk/publikasjoner/norsk_vitenskapsindeks); in Norwegian only.



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## THE SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL AND OPEN ACCESS

Ingegerd Rabow

The Research Council of Norway decided recently to require Open Access to research publications emanating from research funded by them. (See article by Jan Erik Frantsvåg in this issue)

The Swedish Research Council (VR) signed the Berlin Declaration in 2005. At a board meeting in December 2008 VR discussed the possibility of including an OA requirement in their contracts for 2009, but chose to postpone this decision. In their press release [/http://www.vr.se/huvudmeny/pressochnyheter/nyhetsarkiv/nyheter2008/ingetbeslutomkravpaopenaccessan.5.325716ea11d7602a6d1800013111.html](http://www.vr.se/huvudmeny/pressochnyheter/nyhetsarkiv/nyheter2008/ingetbeslutomkravpaopenaccessan.5.325716ea11d7602a6d1800013111.html) VR maintains that few Swedish universities/University Colleges offer the necessary institutional repositories. As a source for this supposition they refer to a survey made by the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF) in October 2008.

Unfortunately, this survey was incomplete (only 15 out of 42 HEs had responded), and thus did not present the true picture. As a matter of fact, all Swedish universities, with the exception of the Karolinska Medical University, have repositories. The University Colleges have repositories (three are planning to set them up), except a couple of small institutions with very few research publications, and seven colleges specialising in music, theatre, art, and dance.

..  
As researchers at the Karolinska have the alternative to deposit in the PMC (PubMed Central), their lack of a repository could be solved in this way. See more about PMC below. The Lund University Repository - LUP – has offered hosting services for those needing interim help while setting up IRs of their own, and/or for the remaining few, who might not feel the need to set up their own.

According to VR, their postponed decision will be reconsidered later on.

At present the VR and other members of EUROHORCS (<http://eurohorcs.drift.senselogic.se/>) are engaged in a plan based on a proposal to the European Science Foundation (<http://www.esf.org/>) by the Wellcome Trust. <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/> They propose a single, Europe-wide open access repository of biomedical research outputs, i.e. a European PubMed Central for peer-reviewed

biomedical research papers. The proposal is building upon the success of the UKPMC.

Some of the benefits summarised in the proposal are bulleted here:

- a single, subject-based repository for all biomedical and health research funded in Europe – fully linked to PubMed and CiteXplore
- possibility for funders/countries to integrate the content from this server into existing systems
- in accord both with the recent EUROHORC's recommendations on open access: <http://www.eurohorcs.org/E/Pages/home.aspx> and the open access pilot for research papers published under the EU FP7 programme (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm?fuseaction=public.topic&id=1680>)
- the possibility to develop additional services for the general public, or other defined audiences.
- provide the infrastructure – an author-based manuscript submission system – to enable grant holders to comply with their funder mandates
- PMC (and UKPMC) has hitherto only dealt with articles published in English or French. If the European PMC is realised, there will be a need to ensure that content in any European language can be ingested into the database, and rendered accurately.
- There will also be a need to develop multi-language interfaces.

The proposal for a pan-European PubMed Central is very interesting and deserves all support, as it in many ways would benefit the visibility and accessibility of European research. Not only would the world be able to see a collective presentation of European research activities within medicine and biomedicine, but authors and publishers would be offered a well-functioning submission system, into which publisher submit final versions subject to agreement. An extended coverage of non-English language publications, as well as developments of additional services for the general public, and of multi-language

interfaces are examples of other advantages.

In order not to duplicate efforts, it is obviously essential, that the integration of European PMC content into the institutional repositories goes as smoothly as possible without technical glitches and/or losses of important information.

[Ingergerd Rabow](#)



## LUND UNIVERSITY SUPPORTS PUBLISHING IN OA JOURNALS

Jörgen Eriksson & Lars Bjørnshauge

In the 2009 budget Lund university has approved of funding publication fees in Open Access journals with 163,000\$ with the intention to encourage and assist publishing in open access journals. The fund will be managed by Lund University Libraries, Head Office. This is one of the largest funds allocated at a university in support of publishing in OA journals.

Already in 2005 the Board of Lund University adopted an OA policy (<http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/fullinfo.php?inst=Lund%20University> )

Among the recommendations in the policy the first one states that “researchers at Lund University, if possible, publish in journals with open access”

The approval of the specific publication fee fund in the budget is an important step in the process of turning the recommendation into reality.

Over the last years the number of articles published in OA Journals by researchers from Lund University has increased rapidly. LU has been a member of BioMed Central from the start

(<http://www.biomedcentral.com/inst/11900> ) using library funding to cover publication fees. In 2007 76 articles published in BioMed Central had at least one author with affiliation Lund University. In 2008 the number had increased to 121.

Thanks to the designated funding for 2009 LU will be able to continue this prepay membership and also a membership with Hindawi Publishing (<http://www.hindawi.com/institutions/lu.se/> ) started in 2008. Hindawi is using a flat-rate membership model where the membership fee replaces the individual publication fees in full.

Recently LU also reached an agreement with PLoS . Instead of PLoS standard institutional membership program that give a discount to the publication fee for the authors the Head Office will pay the full publication fee for each article published by LU affiliated authors.

Through these memberships LU authors will have the possibility to publish in over 300 quality controlled STM journals that are open access without having to be concerned about the publication fee. Advantages with this arrangement are that it increases the

incentive for researchers to publish in OA journals, supports a wider dissemination of LU research and the authors retain the copyright to their articles. A centralized approach also simplifies the administrative handling of the publication fees and makes it more cost-effective.

We also expect to get some requests for publication fee funding from researchers who are publishing in OA journals that are not covered by these memberships. We have decided not to use money from this fund to pay publication fees in hybrid journals. We find it unreasonable to pay both a subscription cost and a publication fee to the same journal. Although some publishers have stated that they will cut subscription prices in proportion to the number of OA-articles published we have decided to leave them out, at least for now.

An uncertainty with this kind of membership is that one can't really make a budget in the same way as with e.g. subscriptions. What we have done is making estimates of the increase of papers published by LU authors in BioMed Central and PLoS publications. By early fall we expect to see if our estimates are reasonable. BioMed Central will supply us with quarterly updates on the outstanding balance in our account and PLoS will bill us a monthly invoice so we think that we will have a reasonable control along the way. If we find that the demand is higher than our funding we have to try to get more funding, either by getting fresh money from the university or close down the memberships until a new budget is approved. To turn this into a sustainable solution a rapidly increasing cost of publication fees probably must be balanced in some way by diminishing costs in the acquisition of subscription-based information.

During March and April the Head office will run an information drive to inform researchers at the university about the advantages of OA publishing and our memberships.

Since the subjects that are covered by these OA-publishers are almost exclusively biosciences and technology we are looking for ways to support open access publishing in social sciences and the humanities and this is something we will work on this spring.

Jörgen Eriksson, Lars Bjørnshauge

## OPEN ACCESS AND A UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Heiki Epner

### General

Estonia has neither uniform open access policy nor a national-level official position concerning the publication of scientific research. Certain interest in the issue and a positive attitude towards it have been expressed, but the making of substantive decisions has so far been left to the competence of research institutions.

In final conclusion, the issue is determined by the position of the authors, and such a situation even has certain advantages – the decisions and applications do not come from far-away authorities. The authors are able to have their say and solutions to various problems can be found in the immediate process. On the other hand, any single institution could establish its own rules and require the publishing in a repository even of those works that have already been published elsewhere. However, reaching agreements with the owners of the rights one by one is a time-consuming and inefficient, if not an inept process.

In recent years, commercial publishers have expressed interest in open access publications and this allows us to view the future in more optimistic terms. We still cannot predict the outcome in a longer perspective. At present, the high purchasing price of licensed publications poses a serious problem. We are still to see whether open access under the wing of commercial publishers would, in the future, pose a similar problem in the form of high publication costs.

Despite the lack of national policy, *The Directory of Open Access Journals* lists 12 periodicals of scientific content published in Estonia, and actually, their number is even larger.

### Dissertations

Systematic on-line publication of dissertations was started at the University of Tartu in 2004. Introduction of the practice took several years, as in addition to technical solutions, also the copyright aspects had to be worked out, and it was necessary to convince the authors in the advantages of electronic publishing. At the beginning, the authors believed that in the electronic environment they would lose their authorship rights. Technical simplicity of plagiarism created an illusion that it was acceptable. We tried to do everything to make plagiarism technically as difficult as possible, but no absolute guarantee can be

offered neither in case of printed nor electronic version.

It is interesting to note that at the same time, when the attitude towards electronic publishing of dissertations was still quite sceptical, first authors appeared who wished to publish electronically their monographs. They had heard about the existence of a technical platform and wanted to ensure the widest possible access to their works. Unfortunately, we had to refuse them at that time, because the publishers had already obtained the publishing rights of these books.

In 2003, the University of Tartu adopted a regulation obligating all masters and doctoral students to publish their theses and dissertations electronically before defending them. This rather forceful document granted the right to restrict access to these publications to the rector of the university. At that time, this was a right decision, but it created problems in cases the authors had planned to publish articles based on their dissertations in some refereed scientific journals, or wished to use a substantial part of their dissertation in a new publication. Even if the article had been mostly rewritten, the publishers still could reject it as an already published work. This would have been useful neither for the author nor the university.

Problems can be solved with understanding and flexible attitude. Resulting from electronic publishing, the number of hits in search engines and the number of downloads grew noticeably. Printed versions of the same text were usually read about twice to a score of times. In case of dissertations of wider public interest, the number of downloads per year extended to hundreds with users all over the world.

At least in one case, when the number of downloads exceeded one thousand, the author ceased to be simply one of many dissertants and became a noteworthy researcher.

By now, the electronic publication has generally been accepted. Probably, some features still need to be changed, e.g., to enable a temporary restriction to access fixed by the author, but this has no effect on the general trend.

We have also published students' research (due to the interest expressed by the students), textbooks and

study guides. Concerning the latter, more activities will be expected in relation with the development of the Estonian e-university and some other initiatives already in progress. The same platform and the same principles are used for issuing publications of one international scientific organisation. This work started only by chance – we had set up this platform just at the very time when they needed it.

One of the newest services expected and demanded of libraries is that they offered opportunities for using software and provided competence in handling metadata and its conversion.

### Technical Platform

Regarding publishing, there is no difference whether the material has been digitised or created electronically, be it a dissertation from 1808 or 2008.

At first, a unique original system was created at the library, and for some time it worked excellently. However, soon we realised that at a certain amount of data, the development and administration of the system will become too costly and labour-consuming. We knew that the volume of digitised material will increase anyway, and were forced to search for a more stable and reliable standardised system with a maximum number of built-in main functions. We opted for DSpace. We studied and compared a number of different systems, but the final decision was based on research as well as on intuition. The main criteria were that DSpace has a wide range of users in different countries, it was easy-to-install in the default mode and it was flexible enough to meet our needs. Considering the facts that this year, DSpace and Fedora Commons (a truly functional system, but very complex to install) initiated cooperation for the functional unifying of their systems, DSpace has been adopted at many Finnish libraries in the recent years, etc., we can now say that we made a right decision.

### What DSpace can offer

At present, we have entered more than 10 000 records which contain at least one, but can contain thousands of pages or stills.

- Administration of the system is labour-consuming, especially for organising the data and correcting mistakes made in entering the records. Administration can be delegated to other parties.
- DSpace supports search by metadata and full text search.
- Each object receives a permanent link registered in the handle-system; the web address does not change.
- DSpace supports the OAI-PMH data

exchange protocol. It has been registered in OAI registers and connected to OAI-based search modules, such as the OAISTER, the BASE or the European portal of dissertations DART-Europe.

Estonian memory institutions have created a number of important databases. The majority of their contents have been described in library catalogues and can be linked via these catalogues. More flexible linking on the basis of the OAI is possible only between the DSpace of the University of Tartu Library and Digar (repository of the Estonian National Library).

- Visibility increased by many times. According to Webometrics, the web visibility of the University of Tartu Library places, mainly due to its repository, on the 299th position among the research and development institutions located at 4000 different universities.

### Shortcomings

- DSpace is not very convenient and user-friendly, especially when handling voluminous publications. This feature should be improved in the development of new versions. At present, we are introducing a new Manakin version which should offer better opportunities for representing materials.

However, a repository is primarily a means for preserving source materials in unchanged form. Materials can in the form of derivatives be exported to user environments, where they can be converted in any necessary way and then be imported back as already new objects.

- Metadata. So far, we have used a minimal amount of metadata in the repository; the full description can be found in the library catalogue in the Estonian language. A multilingual repository would involve much more effort and labour. Hopefully, the new version will offer some improvements.

### About the future

The users expect different software options from the library. Our future plans include such options as the Open Journal System (and several other PKP software solutions compatible with DSpace), pageturner with text recognition and several additional modules of DSpace. This would involve hard work and researching of new opportunities, but it can be done – when there is a will, there is a way.

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<http://DSpace.utlib.ee/DSpace>

<http://DSpace.utlib.ee/xmlui/>

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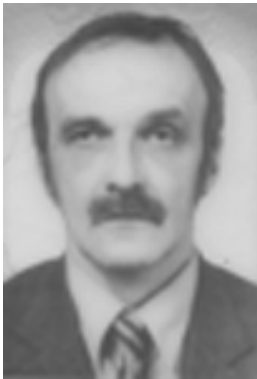
[http://www.webometrics.info/top1000\\_r&d.asp?offset=200](http://www.webometrics.info/top1000_r&d.asp?offset=200)

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**Heiki Epner** Tartu University Library

## EXPERIENCES OF LITHUANIAN DOAJ-JOURNALS

Meile Kretaviciene

### Introduction

According to the country statistics in the DOAJ (Directory of Open access Journals) eleven Lithuanian journals are registered in the Directory for 2009. I tried to get in touch with all the editors to interview them about OA and the DOAJ. Unfortunately, I only succeed to get answers from seven of the Lithuanian OA journal editors.

I am pleased to present short interviews with Dr. Alma Braziuniene, ed. of the *Knygotyra*, publisher Vilnius University Press; Igor Korotkich, ed. of the *Medicina*, publisher the Lithuanian Medical Association; Dr. Olegas Prentkovskis, ed. of the *Transport*, publisher Vilnius Gediminas Technical University; Dr. Liutauras Kraniauskas, ed. of the *Sociologija: Mintis ir veiksmai*, publisher Klaipeda University; Professor Alfonsas Motuzas, ed. of the *Soter*, publisher Vytautas Magnus University; Professor Marijona Barkauskaite, ed. of the *Pedagogika*, publisher Vilnius Pedagogical University; Dr. Inga Vinogradnaitė, ed. of the *Politiologija*, publisher Vilnius University.

### Interview

#### How have the usage and accessibility of your journal articles changed after registration in the DOAJ? Has this exerted any influence?

*O. Prentkovskis:* From the increased number of cited articles in the *Transport* journal since 2008, I can draw the conclusion that registering in the DOAJ has a positive influence for wider accessibility and visibility at the international level.

*I. Korotkich:* The online usage of the *Medicina* has been constantly growing since 2002. As we have no statistics from the DOAJ about access to the journal through the DOAJ database, it is difficult to state that it was the result of registering the journal in the DOAJ. The *Medicina* is accessible for free also from Medline and ISI Web of Science.

*A. Braziuniene:* It is difficult to answer as we have no statistics from the DOAJ.

*A. Motuzas:* The *Soter* printed version is distributed only through university libraries, theological seminaries, and dioceses and has no subscribers. Registration of the journal in the DOAJ did raise its

prestige among scholarly institution internationally.

*L. Kraniauskas:* We have no possibility to evaluate the DOAJ impact on usage and accessibility of the journal *Sociologija*, as we have no information from our readers that they have got information about our journal from DOAJ. Recently, a new design and searchable content has been implemented for the online version, and now articles can be accessible through Google.

*M. Barkauskaite:* We have noticed an increased number of manuscript submissions to the journal after it became more accessible to users.

*I. Vinogradnaitė:* Unfortunately, we have no information about the influence of the DOAJ. Our journal is being indexed by CEEOL and freely accessible from the University homepage.

#### Have you retained the same number of subscribers to the printed version of the journal after its registration in the DOAJ? Has it affected your journal budget?

*O. Prentkovskis:* The number of subscribers remains the same, and I think that many researchers prefer to keep a printed journal in hand rather than read digital articles, but the DOAJ helps to find articles and journals much faster on the Internet.

*I. Korotkich:* We did not experience a lowering of income, as our journal online has been freely accessible from the very beginning in 2001.

*L. Kraniauskas:* We have no permanent subscribers to the printed version, and dissemination is mainly through book stores and libraries.

*A. Braziuniene:* No changes in journal income after registering in the DOAJ.

#### Are all the articles peer-reviewed? Who pays for peer-reviewing: the institution, the journal, the authors, or someone else?

*O. Prentkovskis:* All the articles published in the journal are peer-reviewed. The manuscripts are accepted after positive evaluation by two peer-

reviewers. Usually peer-reviewers are independent experts and members of an editorial board and they work free of charge. We consider that every article receiving a positive peer-review is a point of honour for the researcher.

*I.Korotkich:* All the articles are peer-reviewed and peer-reviewers do not receive any remuneration.

*A.Braziuniene:* All the articles are peer-reviewed free of charge. It is a part of the research and academic activity at the University.

*A.Motuzas:* Authors should submit already peer-reviewed manuscript, and editorial board members should provide additional peer-review. Peer-reviewing work is being covered from the University budget.

*L.Kraniauskas:* Recently, we have required higher standards of peer-reviewing, as we are receiving too many manuscripts. We have implemented a blind peer review method, where the manuscript should be sent to peer-reviewers without the author's name and institution. Afterwards peer-reviewers remarks are presented to the author. We are not willing to formalize peer-reviewing process, but we seek collegial advice and qualified evaluation of the articles.

*M. Barkauskaite:* All the articles are peer-reviewed by a subject specialist and editorial board member free of charge.

*I.Vinogradnaite:* All the articles are peer-reviewed by selected reviewers for free.

### **What is your business model? Is the journal self-financing?**

*L.Kraniauskas:* The journal is financed by the University and the Lithuanian Research Council and the budget is mainly for editing and publishing the journal. Sometimes we publish a special edition on conference or project materials, and then costs are covered from that budget. We have received some funds from CEEOL in 2008 for the first time.

*A.Motuzas:* The funds for journal publishing are allocated from the University budget, and we also receive some money from sales.

*A.Braziuniene:* We are receiving a grant from the Government for journal publishing, so we can afford an open access journal.

*M. Barkauskaite:* The journal is subsidized by the Lithuanian Science and Studies Foundation, and the University.

*O.Prentkovskis:* The journal is financed by the University, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and the Ministry of Education and Science.

### **What online databases are indexing the journal?**

The *Medicina* is being indexed by MEDLINE, ISI Web of Science, and Index Copernicus.

*Transport* - ISI Web of Science, Scopus, PaperChem, EBSCO, ICONDA, CSA, VINITI.

*Pedagogika* – CEEOL, MLA, Scopus, Index Copernicus.

*Knygotyra* – Book History Online (BHO), EBSCO, LISA, Modern Language Association Directory of Periodicals.

*Soter* – The Philosopher's Index, CEEOL.

*Sociologija* – IBSS, CSA, EBSCO, CEEOL.

### **What other ways are you using to promote the usage and accessibility of your journal?**

*L.Kraniauskas:* We much expect to increase the usage of our journal owing to the new journal homepage and through the Social Sciences Forum ([www.socforumas.lt](http://www.socforumas.lt)) and Philosophy in Lithuania ([www.filosofija.vu.lt](http://www.filosofija.vu.lt))

*A.Braziuniene:* We are publishing surveys in the related European journals (Svensk Biblioteksforskning) and reviews in the Lithuanian scholarly and cultural publications such as the *Metai*, *Literatura ir menas*, *Mokslo Lietuva*.

*O.Prentkovskis:* We are disseminating information about new issues by email, and booklets at conferences.

*I.Korotkich:* Every year we both send out information about the possibility to access the journal via Internet and invitations to subscribe to the print version to medical institutions, pharmaceutical companies, etc.

*I.Vinogradnaite:* We mainly disseminate information about new journal issues through social networks and their links.

### **Are you satisfied with the DOAJ article search possibility? What kind of services could you suggest to the DOAJ team?**

*I.Korotkich:* It would be very useful and interesting to get statistical information about the journal usage from the DOAJ portal.

*I.Vinogradnaite:* It would be wonderful if the article search possibilities were extended as the subject catalogue is too general. However, the DOAJ is a very good database for searching OA journals.

*L.Kraniauskas:* Usually, I'm searching for information in other databases, and my wishes are simply that the DOAJ interface was user friendly, and that links to the journal homepages were active.

*M. Barkauskaite:* Thank you. We are satisfied with the work of the DOAJ team

**What do you think about OA initiatives and do you support this movement?**

*A.Motuzas:* The Soter journal editorial board members support the initiatives and OA movement and we consider that it helps scholarly communication internationally.

*A.Braziuniene:* All the members of our editorial board support and encourage every OA initiative. The DOAJ team is doing great work.

*I.Vinogradnaite:* We suppose that science cannot be developed without scholarly communication internationally, and it is natural to seek cheaper communication. Researchers from small institutions or with small funds should not be isolated from access to information.

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***COMMENT from the DOAJ team:***

*There are plans to develop, in a near future, a statistics tool which can be used by DOAJ users as well as publishers for gathering statistics of different kinds (usage, downloads etc.).*

[Meile Kretaviciene](#)