

18/12 2008

## 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 as 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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### **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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15/10 2008

### **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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### **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 ECSP2 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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## FINANCING OF THE NORWEGIAN OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Else Dagfrid Bratland

In June 2008, I completed a Bachelor's thesis on the financing of Norwegian open access journals (OA journals) in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Bachelor's degree in Library and Information Sciences at the Oslo University College. This article will present the main results of my findings.

At the time of my research, there were 12 OA journals in Norway. Since then, the number has increased and at present, there are more than 15 OA journals in Norway (DOAJ, 2008). The Norwegian OA journals can be divided into two main groups: Institutional journals and society journals. The majority of the journals are institutional, and are: Acta Didactica Norge, Chironomus Newsletter on Chironomidae Research, Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Nordlit, Nordlyd, Seminar.net and Voices: a World Forum for Music Therapy. The society journals include Norwegian Dental Journal, Norwegian Journal of Epidemiology, Norwegian Journal of Geology and The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association.

The best known business model for open access journals is funding by the article processing charge (APC), a fee generally paid by the author's patron or institution. Another common business model is direct funding from institutions or associations. Other examples of business models are revenues from advertising and membership fees, sponsorships, and alternative incomes like the use of electronic marketplaces. Most OA journals are funded through a combination of different models.

The interviews I conducted show that there are differences between institutional journals and society journals concerning the selection of business models. The institutional journals, which mainly belong to the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, are funded by support from their hosting institutions and through voluntary contributions in the form of free editorial services. These kinds of journals possess a low degree

of control over authors' rights, often allowing the authors to publish their contributions in other publishing channels, like in institutional repositories. These journals also often appear to have financial problems, and there is expressed concern about the future of their financing.

Society journals, all belonging to the fields of Science, Technology, and Medicine are in general well financed. Their funding comes mainly through revenues from advertising and membership fees, and they rely less on voluntary contributions. It is also apparent that the society journals have a higher degree of control over the authors' rights.

Common features for the Norwegian OA journals are that they are largely based on voluntary contributions. External support and sponsorship are almost absent as business models. Article processing charges have not been officially tried out in Norway. There is, however, one case of voluntary APC and another case in which a journal charges for articles exceeding a set number of pages. All in all, it appears as though the journals that do not receive income from advertising or from membership fees are having financial difficulties. This is the case for the largest group of OA journals in Norway, and one can therefore argue that there is a necessity for alternative business models for OA journals in Norway.

### Referanser

Bratland, Else Dagfrid (2008). *Finansieringsmodeller for norske open access tidsskrifter: ein kvalitativ undersøkelse*. Oslo: Høgskolen i Oslo.

DOAJ (2008). *Directory of Open Access Journals: Find journals*.

Retrieved from:

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## Business models:

	Volunt- ary contr.	Internal Support	Eksternal support	Sponsor ship	Coop- eration	APC	Ad- vertising	Sub- scription	Member ship fees
Acta Didactica Norge	X	X							
Chironomius Newsletter	X	X			X				
Journal of Arabic and Islamic studies	X	X			X				
Nordlit.	X	X							
Nordlyd	X	X							
Seminar.net	X	X	X						
Voices	X	X			X	(X)			
Norwegian Dental Journal							X		X
Norwegian Journal of Epidemiolo.	X		X	X					X
Norwegian Journal of Geology	X					(X)		X	
The Journal of the Norwegian Medical Association							X		
Dictum	X								

(x) = Voices: Voluntary APC

Norwegian Journal of Geology: Charging for articles exceeding a set number of pages.



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## OPEN LEARNING – EXPERIENCES AND PARADOX

Gunnar Grepperud

There will always be aspects of our way of life that is unusual to disagree with. For instance, few people will oppose the idea that good weather during holidays is nice, or that it is a good thing to grant more money to public libraries. Likewise, people seldom disagree with the idea that learning and education is important. Even if somebody should feel that education or learning is not so important for themselves, most people probably will agree that it is a good thing in general, and that learning may lead to prosperity and progress. This unquestionable status makes education a field “blessed” with a rhetoric that is characterized by buzzwords and positive attitudes.

In particular this phenomenon is observed within the field of lifelong learning. “Lifelong learning” is both a basic concept and an ideology for the future knowledge-society. As an ideology, emphasis is on elucidative traits in the future society as well as on the necessity for a holistic and universal perspective on learning. Learning is in other words seen as a necessary condition for development. The ideal notion of learning as an overall valuable activity, underpins the idea of the “learning organization” and “the learning society”.

In higher education, lifelong learning is first and foremost brought to our attention through alternative educational programs, where the focus is on adults who combine education, work and family life. Despite past year’s emphasis on the full-time student, adults doing part time studies are a fast growing group within Scandinavian higher education (Roos & Grepperud 2007). Recent developments and research also suggest that adult students will be even more important in the years to come. Some smaller, Scandinavian university colleges already seem to rely heavily on recruiting adult students, in order to keep up their activity to an acceptable level. Part-time studies are characterized in various ways and goes by different names, and it is quite difficult to follow and get a complete view over the situation. Amongst the terms used to describe the activity within this field we find: distant education, decentralized education, part-time education, flexible learning, flexible education, web-based education, technology supported education, as well as further and continuing education. Despite the fact that the field appears fragmented, this part of the higher education activity is based on a common understanding that openness is advantageous. In Denmark the field is officially termed as “Open education”.

The reasoning and underpinning ideology of openness is both related to access and facilitating. Access is first and foremost about reaching out to adults in terms of recruiting new student groups, or giving non-traditional students “a new chance”. In the Norwegian political context this goal is expressed as: “more knowledge to more citizens”. In addition, this is also about making it possible for adults to complete an education combined with full time work.

Besides access, openness is also about facilitation and teaching. Students are, within this perspective, able to start a desired education whenever, in what way and where they like. Within the most idealistic (and extreme) forms of open learning, all kinds of regulations, control, and structure is seen as an undesirable intervention. Maximum openness and flexibility (or freedom) in the learning process is related to a view on students as being more or less fully autonomous and self regulated. In this perspective, the educational institution plays a less active role in facilitating the learning process.

The open learning rhetoric appears to put forth both a reasonable and an enchanting argument about how higher education should accommodate adult students’ special needs, all inspired by democratic values of social equality. The rhetoric is also under strong influence by the humanistic adult-education tradition, and are partly built on the belief that adults are able to control and regulate their own learning and study behaviour. Different educational theories, models and methods have grown out of the open-learning tradition as a framework. Distant educational institutions (correspondence schools like NKI and NKS in Norway) have always based their pedagogy on the notion of students as self regulated learners. In a context of technological development and increasing importance of open learning, traditional higher education institutions in Norway and the other Scandinavian countries, have developed and tested different models for teaching and learning online. What then, are the results of this open-learning movement in practical education? When it comes to access it is well documented that alternative educational models have contributed significantly to the realization of life-long learning both in ordinary education and in further and continuing education. When adult students are asked why they choose flexible education, their answer is unanimous: this is their only possibility, given the constraints of work

and family life. Consequently, flexible and open-learning models recruit new student groups into higher education. In a survey of adult, flexible students, 45% was first timers in higher education (Grepperud, Rønning & Støkken 2006). Many Norwegian Higher Education Colleges have open and flexible courses as part of their portfolio. In a Swedish study, Roos (2002) interestingly documents that the recruitment-profile to flexible courses managed by local study-centres are different compared to the recruitment-profile in traditional full-time campus courses.

When it comes to openness concerning pedagogical facilitation, the experiences are more ambiguous. A large degree of openness and freedom seems to benefit students with long and relatively recent experiences from higher education. On the other hand, most other groups demand a well organized and structured course-design with a close relation to the teacher/tutor. For the latter group, a high degree of flexibility, implying being left to themselves in their learning process, is an undesirable situation. Research on adult learners in higher education in Scandinavia shows that students especially appreciate and acknowledge the significance of face – to face meetings. Being allowed to get away from home and demanding domestic responsibilities, to meet fellow students and immerse in studies, seem to represent the optimal degree of flexibility for most adult students.

However, this insight is in direct opposition to the open-learning ideology. The less experienced the students are, the more they need and wish for structure and control. The ideology of open learning is confronted by a paradox - openness in access may contradict an open learning process- and no immediate solution seems to be offered.

On the other hand, the fact that adult students need

relatively “firm guidance” is not surprising. This is clearly related to their learning context. When studies are tightly interwoven with other activities in a complex everyday life, the situation will often be experienced as overloaded. This may lead to drop-out. Among factors leading to dropout, three stand out: study-overload, family and work (Grepperud & Rønning 2007). The fact that a course is open or flexible, offers no comfort under such overall conditions.

When study activities challenge the priorities of everyday life, students will be facing dilemmas all the time like: Shall I read or help my children with their homework? Shall I write my assignment or do the dishes? Adult students are dependent on structure, control and discipline in order to keep them on track in their studies. Deadlines and clearly defined tasks help adults to prioritize learning activities, and they are less easily distracted.

One male adult student put it like this: “You know, some time it’s so hard to get going with the reading – that even doing the dishes seems like a joy”.

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## THE ONE STOP SHOP TO OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS - DOAJ

Anna-Lena Johansson. Ingela Wahlgren

### Introduction

The initiative to start the project Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) was taken in 2002 at the first Nordic Conference on Scholarly Communication (NCSC). The idea was to develop a one stop shop service which made it easier for libraries and aggregators to integrate OA-journals data in their services, for OA-publishers to get their journals visible and for readers to find OA-material. Initially Open Society Institute and SPARC funded the project which was launched in 2003 containing around 300 journals.

Today, the Directory has become the authoritative source for open access journals, with close to 3800 journals in the Directory and over 200 000 searchable articles. In this article we will tell you more about how the service is operated, its current status and some plans for the future.

### What is DOAJ

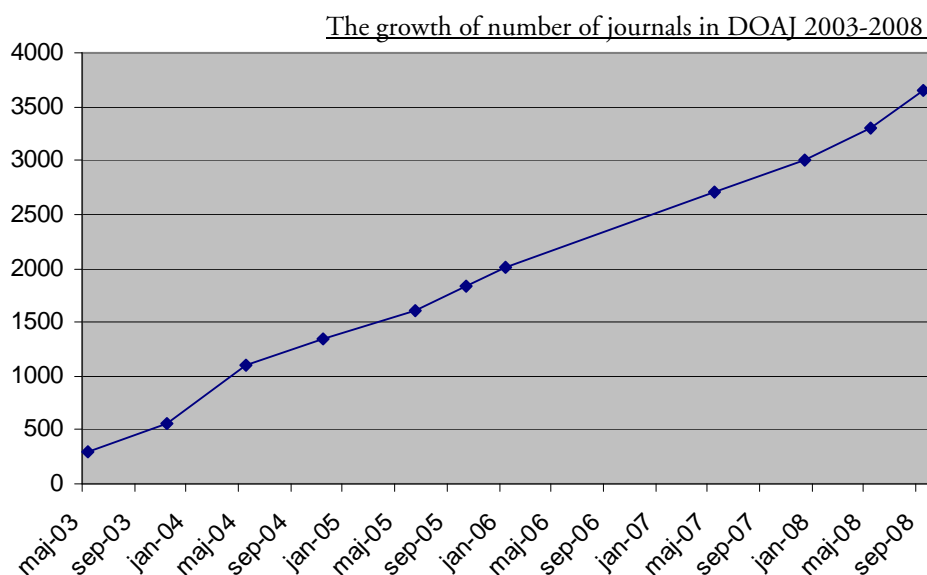
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is a service listing scientific, quality controlled, full text open access journals. The aim of the directory is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access journals and thereby promoting their increased usage and impact.

All scientific subjects and languages are aimed to be covered.

### What are the selection criteria for journals to be included in the directory?

To be indexed in DOAJ the journal has to live up to the following criteria:

- be open access according to the BOAI definition, which allows the user to “read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles”
- exercise peer-review or editorial control
- report primary results of research or overviews of research results to a scholarly community
- have an ongoing publication (publish at least one issue per year)
- no embargo, i.e the online version has to be published simultaneously (or before) the printed version
- all content should be available in full text
- have an ISSN



*As shown in the diagram, the average growth has been about 1000 journals per year.*

During the years the selection of journals has become more and more strict as the staff has learned from working with selecting journals. Paired with the fact that there is also an ongoing review of the currently included journals, this means that the quality of the Directory has increased since the start and is still increasing.

### Membership

DOAJ is hosted by Lund University Libraries, Head Office in Lund, Sweden but is externally funded by sponsors and members. In February 2007, a membership program was launched in order to create a sustainable financial foundation for the continuing development and operation of DOAJ. As of November 2008 DOAJ has around 60 libraries, 10 library consortia, 3 aggregators and a number of individuals as members. We are happy for that but we still need more support. Reads more about membership at:

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=membership>.

### Where DOAJ is now

- about 40 languages are represented
- journals from 80 different countries
- members from all over the world
- an authority in the Open Access community
- numbers are growing every day (see below)
- service for authors to find journals to publish in OA

On the DOAJ site you are able to see, in more detail, which countries have journals included in DOAJ, how many journals and what the titles of these journals are. Based on year this is presented in two lists, showing:

- which journals have been included during a specific year and when (the date)
- the total number of journals included so far from a specific country

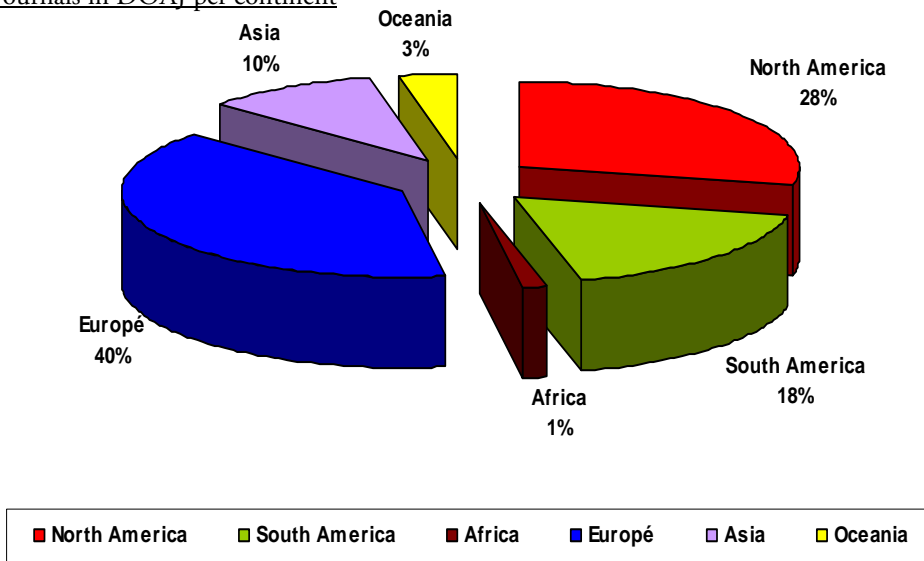
To see the presentation, please visit:

<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=byCountry>

### Included in many other services

A number of big aggregators and service providers like EBSCO, Proquest and Ovid are continuously harvesting the content of DOAJ. Recently SUNCAT (Serials Union CATalogue for the UK research community) included the entire DOAJ in their listing alongside the subscription journals of the participating libraries. The journals in DOAJ are also automatically included in the ELIN@lund service, which is the electronic resources catalogue for Lund University. Apart from these big aggregators, DOAJ journals are also included in hundreds, possibly thousands, of library catalogues around the world thanks to the OAI metadata harvesting protocol, which enables libraries and other services, like the ones mentioned above, to harvest and include journal metadata from DOAJ. This is of course also part of the mission of DOAJ and its founders, to disseminate open access journals to the widest possible audience.

Journals in DOAJ per continent



*Open Access Journals are published all over the world.*

## SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals

In a mutual project to give open access journals a Seal if they live up to a set of standards, SPARC Europe and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) launched SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals in April 2008.

The idea behind the Seal is to promote clear licensing of the content of the open access journals in DOAJ and also to encourage journals to provide DOAJ with metadata on article level. The Seal is rewarded to journals which have chosen the Creative Commons Attributions license and make that visible in DOAJ, and that also upload metadata on article level to DOAJ, from the start year of the journal in DOAJ until the present. So far 327 journals have earned the Seal and a total of 450 journals have chosen a CC license. We are pleased with the results, but are of course hoping that the numbers will increase further. We are hoping to be able to soon have a counter at the DOAJ web site, showing the current number of journals that have earned the Seal. A positive, but maybe not anticipated, outcome of the Seal has been the awakening of many journals when it comes to copyright and licensing, something we have noticed also through the feedback we have received since the launch.

If you want to learn more about the Seal, please visit: <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=faq#seal>



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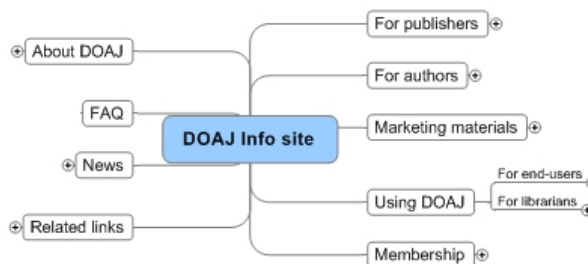


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## Future developments

There are a number of plans, projects and development activities to come, e.g.

- DOAJ Info site – a publicly accessible information site covering all about DOAJ, how to start an OA journal, how to publish in OA, development plans etc.



- Work to increase the growth rate of the directory.
- Usage statistic functionality to be developed - there is frequently feedback asking for this kind of service so we are well aware of the demand. However, deciding what statistics to provide, and how to present them are not easy tasks and also time consuming.

Stay tuned for more information

## PRODUCING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN RESEARCH DATA AND PUBLICATION

Iris Alfredsson, Adam Brenthel and Birger Jerlehag

### Introduction

Most research processes follow a cyclic path; a study concept is formulated, data is collected and analyzed, and the results of the analysis are published. From the published reports, new research questions arise, new data will be collected, and new results will be published, and so forth. Alternatively, old data will be reanalyzed, as the primary researcher seldom has explored everything in the collected data, or researchers from other disciplines, with different research questions, can reuse the data in a new way.

The possibilities to reanalyze data are dependent on the information upon which data was used and where it was found. To be able to use data for secondary analysis one needs a lot of information about the data: information about the concept, sampling, fieldwork, etc. One also needs information about reports published on results from earlier analysis of the data. Finding published reports is rather straightforward – we have a long tradition where libraries take care of the published research reports, and develop good search systems to find them. Libraries have also the possibility to supply a good overview of everything that is published. But how does one locate the data?

The history of data archives does not extend so far back as the history of libraries. When the technique and methodology for collecting mass data developed during the middle of the twentieth century, a need arose for creating institutions taking care of data and assisting in the process of sharing data. Roper Center, the first social science data archive in the world, was founded in 1947. During the 1960's and 1970's a number of social science data archives emerged in Europe and USA, starting with the Zentral Archive (ZA) in Cologne in 1960.<sup>1</sup>

Among the Nordic countries Norway and Denmark were the pioneers. The Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD) and Danish Data Archive (DDA) were established in the beginning of the 1970's. Swedish researchers had to wait until 1981, when the Swedish Social Science Data Service (SSD) was established. At the end of the 1990's the Finnish Social Science Data Archive (FSD) and the Estonian Social Science Data

Archive (ESSDA) were founded. Swedish National Data Service (SND) was re-established 2007.

As part of the Swedish Research Council's (VR) major infrastructure initiative, the Database Infrastructure Committee (DISC)<sup>2</sup> was founded in 2006. DISC's mission is to promote the development of an effective infrastructure for sharing research data resources in Sweden. Organisationally, DISC is subordinate to the Committee for Research Infrastructures (KFI). One of the first key issues for DISC was to transform the existing Social Science Data Service (SSD) into the Swedish National Data Service (SND). The new organisation covers a broader scope, which includes social sciences, the humanities and part of medicine, mainly epidemiology. In the autumn of 2006 there was a call for applications to host the new data service and in the autumn of 2007 an agreement was signed between VR and University of Gothenburg, establishing the university as the host for SND during the next five years.

The main purposes for SND are to mediate information on databases and other collections of digital material for research, to facilitate access to research data and to serve as a knowledge node for documenting, managing research data and adherent methodologies in several knowledge fields. Thus, a very important task for SND is to strengthen the altruistic reception of the importance of data sharing and open access among researchers. There are two key areas that serve as barriers for reaching these goals; legal barriers and possessive barriers. The legal barriers are hinders in current Swedish laws and statutes but these laws and statutes are also the protection against misuse of information, making it a delicate question. The possessive barriers are attitudes among researchers; many consider produced research material financed by tax money their own property. A strategy to overcome these barriers is a combination of "top-down" and "bottom-up" activities. An example of a "top-down" activity is to influence research financiers to put higher demands on future open access to data when completion of studies. Another example is to provide means and to support researchers through the whole research process, e.g. with interpretations of different legal aspects of open access. Examples of "bottom-up"

<sup>1</sup> Mochmann, E. (2002) International Social Science Data Service. Scope and Accessibility. Report for the International Social Science Council. Cologne: Zentralarchiv für Empirische Sozialforschung

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.disc.vr.se/>

activities include SND's presence in different research contexts for example, at conferences and seminars propagating the benefits of sharing data.

The emergence of more and more actors on the European level involved in the process of collecting, preserving, processing and distributing research data, created a need of cooperation between organizations. At the end of the 1970's the Council of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)<sup>3</sup>, was founded. CESSDA extends to 20 countries across Europe and SND is the Swedish node in the network. During the years the role of CESSDA has expanded and today CESSDA hosts a gateway to social science data via the CESSDA data portal<sup>4</sup>, providing access to 25,000 data collections, and delivering over 70,000 data collections per annum. CESSDA is also one of 35 projects listed in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. As consequence of this, CESSDA was funded for a two-year preparatory phase project (CESSDA PPP)<sup>5</sup>. This project, which commenced in January 2008, is intended to result in a major upgrade of CESSDA in order to strengthen, widen and make the existing research infrastructure more comprehensive, efficient, effective and integrated. Such an upgraded research infrastructure aims to enable researchers, not only between disciplines but also between countries, to work together developing leading-edge research methods and efficiently analysing large and complex datasets. In essence, making it possible for researchers to sit at their computer, locate, access, merge and analyse data from a number of different sources. Hence, facilitating the potential for increased cross-disciplinary and cross-national research and cooperation.

Cooperation however, needs standards. The main task for a data service is to make the actual data, the ones and zeros, available for reuse among current and future researchers. To make this possible, SND describe the data in great detail, otherwise no one in the future will be able to interpret the data. This description, or metadata, is stored in a standard used by most data archives. Within the social sciences the Data Documentation Initiative (DDI)<sup>6</sup> is an effort to create an international standard in XML for metadata describing social science data. In April 2008, version 3.0 of DDI was launched. DDI 3.0 represents a major advancement for DDI by fully incorporating XML schemas and moving to a data life cycle approach, meaning that the whole cyclic research process is covered. The DDI is used in the CESSDA data portal and it includes the Dublin Core<sup>7</sup> elements, a basic set

of tags to describe a resource. Another effort to create an international standard is the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)<sup>8</sup>. Its chief deliverable is a set of guidelines, which specify encoding methods for machine-readable texts, chiefly in the humanities, social sciences and linguistics.

University libraries provide facilities for making scientific papers and publications, in electronic form, accessible to academia. SwePub<sup>9</sup> is a joint effort to make "unified access to and reporting of Swedish scientific publications" stored in the various campus-based repositories. The SwePub initiative uses the OAI-PMH<sup>10</sup> protocol to harvest the local repositories. This protocol also includes Dublin Core elements. This means we have a common denominator to use to exchange information between our systems. The problem is to know when to use it.

When a publication in a repository is based upon data from a data archive, it should be linked back to the actual dataset. At the data archive the description of the dataset should contain a link to all publications based upon it. To make this possible we have to agree on how to include these links in our respective documents without violating the standards they are built upon. As SwePub only gathers information about the publications and provide a link back to the full document at the local repository, this means that SND and the individual university libraries must do the practical work.

When the connections between research data and e-publication are produced in cooperation the advantages for the end-user will be significant. The gain is foremost scientific but also economic. The scientific gain is the possibility to reanalyse research data in order to assess the interpretations made by other researcher. It can also initiate new collaborations, and perhaps counteract the possibility that two researchers are double working. The cyclic research process will accelerate as research material becomes more searchable and accessible. The economic gain is obvious; at least from a top-down perspective, however, to promote researchers to deposit data in the archives, economic incentives for the individual researcher must be incorporated into the system. There are also improved possibilities for example, sociologists of science to go upstream from the published material towards the empirical material. It will also be possible to go downstream from a research material to find what results has been produced from it. Over time a network will arise that connects publications, material and the researchers engaged in the field. The keyword to make this possible is cooperation. The possibilities

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cessda.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cessda.org/accessing/catalogue/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cessda.org/project/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ddialliance.org/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.dublincore.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.tei-c.org/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.swepub.se/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.openarchives.org/>

are wide-ranging and promote openness and knowledge production.



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## TWO ICELANDIC OPEN ACCESS REPOSITORIES

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### Introduction

In Iceland there are now two Open Access repositories, Hirslan and Skemman. Skemman is developing into a cooperative project of the universities in Iceland, mostly housing dissertations and theses at the moment, and Hirslan is a subject based repository for medical and health science information and an institutional repository for Landspítali University Hospital. Both repositories use DSpace software, are listed in DOAR and ROAR and are searchable through Google Scholar. The material of both repositories is also linked to records in Gagnir, the union catalogue of Icelandic libraries.

### Skemman

Skemman was started by the library of the University of Akureyri in 2002. The idea was to build a digital repository, where data of various kinds in electronic form would be placed for safekeeping and access provided to it. The first documents in the repository were final theses by students at the University of Akureyri. In 2006 the library of the Iceland University of Education joined the project and took over the technical part and management of the system. A project group was also formed to continue the development of the repository.

The Council of University Librarians discussed the possibility of more universities using Skemman as a repository for their students' final theses and many university librarians were interested in joining forces. The National and University Library of Iceland (NULI) also expressed interest in joining as well as taking over the responsibility of housing and maintaining the repository as the largest research library in Iceland. In February of 2008 the Council of the University of Iceland ruled that electronic copies should be mandatory in addition to paper copies of all final theses enabling NULI to start negotiations with Skemman. The decision to move the repository to NULI and open it to other universities was finally taken in late Spring. In December 2008 The Icelandic Academy of the Arts and Bifröst University joined and the process of moving Skemman to the National and University Library where it will be housed in the future has started.

The process is complicated by the fact that the original Dspace software has been modified by the founding universities and no decision has been taken yet as to whether the modified version will be implemented or

whether NULI will start afresh. However NULI aims at storing the theses of all those graduating from the University of Iceland in February. In the future NULI also aims at entering articles and other forms of university research results in Skemman. Hopefully this venture will be completed successfully in the very near future.

The material in Skemman is at the moment mostly student dissertations and theses. It is classified by schools and faculties and can be searched by title, author, subject and year. Also there are articles from one OA electronic journal *Nordicum Mediterraneum*, teacher's working paper series and one book. Students and authors insert their own material.

The interface is both in Icelandic and English but the material is mostly in Icelandic. The user can open both the abstract and the document in pdf format. Some items are only available to registered users and some items will be accessible after an embargo-period.

### Hirslan.

Landspítali is the National and University Hospital of Iceland (LSH). Hirslan, Landspítali's repository or digital archive, was opened in May 2006. It is a subject based repository, intended to capture, store and preserve LSH employees' scholarly works and make them available to the research community through Open Access protocols. Hirsla contains articles from both Icelandic and international journals.

Articles from the Icelandic health science journals by authors not employed by LSH are also made available. Access to the journals is from the year 2000.

Hirslan has negotiated a special agreement with most publishers of Icelandic health science journals. The agreement with the publishers allows Hirslan to store published articles in html or pdf format and make them available in open access without any charge. Publishers do not charge Hirslan for this agreement.

Some of these health science journals are only published in printed format. These printed journals are therefore only available in electronic format through Hirslan. Most of the articles have English abstracts. The following is a list of all Icelandic

health science journals that allow Hirslan to archive full text versions of their articles:

1. Læknablaðið : Icelandic medical journal - 2.
- Tímarit hjúkrunarfræðinga : Icelandic nursing journal - 3.
- Sálfræðiritið : tímarit Sálfræðingafélags Íslands : The Icelandic Journal of Psychology - 4.
- Ljósmæðrablaðið : Icelandic midwifery journal - 5.
- Tímarit lífeindafræðinga : The Icelandic Journal of the Association of Biomedical Scientists - 6.
- Iðjuþjálfinn : Icelandic journal of occupational therapy - 7.
- Sjúkraþjálfarinn: Icelandic journal of physiotherapy - 8.
- Öldrun: tímarit um öldrunarmál - Icelandic geriatrics journal - 9.
- Tannlæknablaðið : Icelandic dental journal.

This agreement is important both for Icelanders and

foreigners interested in what is published in the health science journals in Iceland. Students use this access for information in Icelandic related to their curriculum.

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