



Gemensam nordisk arbetsgrupp bildad

NordOA

En informell nordisk samarbetsgrupp har bildats för att diskutera policyfrågor rörande Open Access. Ordförande i gruppen är professor Bo-Charter Björk, Svenska Handelshögskolan i Helsingfors. Från Sverige deltar Lars Bjørnshauge, universitetsbibliotekarie i Lund, Jan Hagerlid, 1:e handläggare på BIBSAM och professor Inge-Bert Täljedal, rektor vid Umeå Universitet. Från Finland deltar också professor Claus Montonen, Helsingfors Universitet och Kristiina Hormia-Poutanen, Nationalbiblioteket. Från Norge deltar professor Rune Nilsen, Universitetet i Bergen, Jostein Helland Hauge, Universitetsbiblioteket i Bergen och Carol Van Nuys, ABM-utvikling. Från Danmark deltar Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard, Statsbiblioteket i Århus, Hanne Marie Kværndrup, DEF sekretariatet Biblioteksstyrelsen, Mogens Sandfær, Danmarks Tekniske Videncenter och från Island Jörundur Gudmundsson Islands Universitet och Thorstein Hallgrimsson, Nationalbiblioteket.

Nordiska avtal till stöd för Open Access

Danmark, Norge och Finland har slutit avtal med BioMed Central

Danmark, Norge och Finland har beslutat att på nationell nivå stödja Open Access till den forskning de finansierar med offentliga medel. All biomedicinsk forskning vid såväl universitet som sjukhus kan nu publiceras i BioMed Centrals 120 OA-tidskrifter utan att separata artikelavgifter debiteras. Pressrelease för det norska avtalet ligger på <http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/about/pr-releases?pr=20041018>

I UK har ett nationellt avtal för samtliga universitet varit i kraft sedan mars 2003. Även NHS National Health Service, England har slutit ett heltäckande avtal.

Deklarationer till stöd för Open Access

Sverige

Sveriges universitets- och högskoleförbund (SUHF) har undertecknat Berlindeklarationen

Vid det årliga förbundsmötet den 21 oktober beslöt SUHF att underteckna Berlindeklarationen (**SUHF protokollsutdrag**)

<http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/>

[berlindeclaration.html](http://www.zim.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html). Det är ett principiellt viktigt

ställningstagande eftersom SUHF organiserar samtliga universitet och högskolor genom sina rektorer och förvaltningschefer. **Läs mer i detta nummer.**

Skottland

The Scottish Declaration on Open Access

antogs av The Scottish Science Information Strategy Working Group den 11 oktober. Man föreslår bl.a. att

forskningsanslagsgivare ställer villkoret att publikationer som är resultat av anslagsfinansierad forskning skall vara tillgängliga i öppna arkiv via egenarkivering.

De universitet som undertecknar deklARATIONEN förbinder sig att sätta upp öppna arkiv och att kräva att deras forskare arkiverar sina publikationer där så snart det är praktiskt möjligt.

Nu återstår att se om/när deklARATIONEN antas av de skotska forskningsråden.

<http://scuri.ac.uk/WG/SSISWGOA/declaration.htm>

Italien

Messinadeklarationen

Vid en konferens om Open Access arrangerad av CRUI (Council of Rectors of Italian Universities) i Messina 4-5 november undertecknade 31 italienska universitet och ett forskningscentrum "The Messina Declaration - Italian declaration supporting the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities".

CRUI hoppas att stödet från rektorerna vid så många av de italienska universiteten skall få ett avgörande inflytande på den fortsatta utvecklingen av Open Access i Italien och att rektorernas ställningstagande även kommer att involvera forskarvärlden.

<http://www.aepic.it/conf/index.php?cf=1>

Ryssland

Declaration of the International Conference "Information as Public Domain: Access through Libraries" <http://www.nlr>.

ru:8101/tus/271004/index_e.html

27-29 oktober 2004 var St. Petersburg värd för den internationella konferensen "Information as Public Domain: Access through Libraries" med representanter för offentliga myndigheter, akademiska forskningsorganisationer, bibliotek m fl från Armenien, Azerbadjan, Georgien, Kazakstan, Kirgistan, Moldavien, Ryssland, Storbritannien, Tadjikistan, Ukraina, USA och Vitryssland.

Vid konferensens plenarsession gjordes följande gemensamma uttalande:

"För informationspolitiken i demokratiska nationer bör det vara en grundläggande princip att all information producerad av offentliga instanser skall ligga på den publika domänen. Offentliga myndigheter liksom bibliotek, arkiv och andra tillhandahållare av information bör ta på sig det primära ansvaret att främja öppenhet och publik tillgänglighet. Alla undantag från huvudregeln om fritt tillgänglig information skall motiveras, minimeras och stödjas av gällande lag. Den nationella informationspolitiken och därtill hörande lagstiftning bör baseras på en presumerad öppen access till offentlig information."

Man underströk också vikten av att implementera de nyckeldokument som antogs vid World Summit on Information Society, dvs Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action (2003) <http://www.itu.int/wsis/> liksom Policy guidelines for the development and promotion of government public domain information (UNESCO, 2004). http://www.oegdi.at/IFAP/IFAPCouncilMeeting_05-2004.doc eller <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap>

Studie av de ekonomiska effekterna av alternativa affärsmodeller för vetenskapliga tidskrifter

ALPSP (Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers), AAAS (American Academy for the Advancement of Science) och HighWire Press finansierar gemensamt en stor studie av både ekonomiska och icke-ekonomiska effekter av olika former av Open Access publicering. Studien utförs av Kaufman-Wills Group, LLC. HighWire Press och DOAJ har undersökts. Preliminära resultat har presenterats vid ett HighWire seminarium i oktober samt vid ett ALPSP/SSP möte 8 november (SSP Society for Scholarly Publishing) <http://www.alpsp.org/openacc.htm>

Nytt från Public Library of Science

PloS Medicine - premiärnummer 19 oktober <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>

Programförklaring: "Prescription for a Healthy Journal: Take monthly, at no cost; reaches six billion".

Dr. Richard Smith, styrelseledamot i PLoS Medicine och välkänd tidigare redaktör för BMJ: "The launch of PLoS Medicine provides an opportunity to reinvent medical journals. Publishers have made money by restricting access to research and limiting the development of new ideas. And I hope that free access to research will encourage greater public understanding of science. It will certainly be a boon for patients, many of whom are more even eager than doctors to access the latest research."

PLoS Biology – redan ett år <http://www.plosbiology.org/>

För ett år sedan lanserade Public Library of Science sin första tidskrift PLoS Biology. Antalet insända manuskript har ökat stadigt under året. Mellan 2003-10-13 och 2004-09-30 fick man in totalt 651 forskningsartiklar från 38 länder, däribland Danmark, Finland, Norge och Sverige. 140 originalartiklar publicerades och dessutom 254 artiklar i magasinsektionen. Användningen har varit mycket hög med totalt över en miljon nerladdningar av fulltextdokument (enligt COUNTER); i snitt drygt 85 000 nerladdningar per månad. Bara under september 2004 redovisades 108 328 fulltextnerladdningar. Om man räknar träffar hade PLoS Biology över 43 miljoner träffar under tidsperioden, de första dagarnas våldsamma anstormning oräknad. Ytterst få författare har ansökt om befrielse från artikelavgiften (USD 1500).

Open Access i UK

Regeringen har nu svarat på den rapport : "Scientific Publications: Free for all?" som House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee lade fram den 20 juli i år. Svaret "Responses to the Committee's Tenth Report, Session 2003-04, Scientific Publications: Free for All?" finns på <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmsctech/1200/1200.pdf>

Svaret innebar en besvikelse för kommittén, framför allt oviljan att anamma rapportens förslag till regeringen att finansiera uppsättandet av öppna universitetsarkiv och att kräva att författare till artiklar baserade på offentligt finansierad forskning deponerar kopior av dessa artiklar i universitetens öppna arkiv.

Parlamentskommitténs andra svar på regeringens respons kan läsas på http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/scitech081104.cfm

Ledamöterna beskyller bl. a regeringen för att alltför mycket ha lyssnat på DTI, the Department for Trade and Industry, som i sin

tur sägs ha varit påverkat av starka lobbygrupper från förlagssidan.

Financial Times skriver i en intressant ledarkommentar den 9 november:

"Although the angry MPs may have gone too far in accusing the Department of Trade and Industry of kow-towing to the publishing lobby at the expense of British science, the government should not have taken such a negative stance. A more measured response would have been to adopt some of the committee's suggestions for establishing Britain as a test-bed for open access journals, with publishing and peer review costs met ultimately by the research funding agencies, while making clear that there would be no precipitate move away from the existing system.

The main reason for considering a change now is that computer and communications technology make it possible, for the first time, to disseminate research results far beyond the traditional purchasers of scientific journals, such as university libraries. There is a powerful ideological argument that the public, having funded the research in the first place, should not have to pay again to see the results. /- -/

Although the lukewarm attitude of the government will disappoint open access activists, the publishing industry must recognise the growing international pressure for fundamental change. The Wellcome Trust is determined to introduce open access publishing through the £400m a year it spends on biomedical research and there are powerful voices for reform in the US and elsewhere in Europe. A fair compromise might be to give journals six months exclusivity and then guarantee free public access."

Enligt en talesman för RCUK (Research Councils UK) är forskningsråden inte beroende av regeringens inställning utan är fria att implementera rapportens rekommendationer om de så önskar. RCUK väntas komma med en programförklaring rörande Open Access i början av 2005.

(The Scientist 9/11 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/news/20041109/02/>)

Open Access i USA

Med överväldigande majoritet antog den 9 september Representanthuset the House Appropriation Committee´s rekommendation till NIH (National Institutes of Health) att erbjuda Open Access via PubMed till artiklar som är resultat av forskning finansierad av NIH, dvs drygt 50 000 artiklar per år. Senatens budgetkommitte har emellertid inte inkluderat denna rekommendation i sitt budgetförslag. En s.k. Conference Committee skall nu försöka överbrygga skillnaderna mellan de två förslagen.

Processen för NIH behöver inte fördröjas eftersom de nu planerar revidera sina riktlinjer för anslagstilldelning. Detta har de mandat att göra på egen hand utan att behöva invänta ny lagstiftning. NIH-planen finns på:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/>

[06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-21097.htm](http://www.access.gpo.gov/2004/04-21097.htm)

Stöd från EAHIL

European Association for Health Information and Libraries är en av de organisationer som öppet uttalat sitt stöd för NIH:s policy för Open Access. EAHIL har också sänt sina synpunkter till UK Parliament Science and Technology Select Committee Inquiry om vetenskaplig publicering.

Se EAHIL newsletter No 69 (Open Access)

<http://www.eahil.org/newsletter/69/69%20.pdf>

<http://www.eahil.org/newsletter/newsletters.htm>

"What makes searching scientific and medical literature online frustrating?"

The Science Advisory Board, en internationell panel med 22 319 medlemmar inom naturvetenskap och medicin har publicerat resultaten av en enkät om vad som är mest frustrerande för forskare när de söker information på webben. Nära 80% av de 1 400 svarande anger att barriärer för tillgång till fulltextdokument är det absolut mest irriterande. <http://www.scienceboard.net/community/news/news.214.html>

Science Commons

<http://science.creativecommons.org/>

Creative Commons lanserar Science Commons 1 januari 2005. Science Commons uppgift är att uppmuntra vetenskapliga innovationer genom att göra det enklare för forskare, universitet och industrin både att använda litteratur, data och annan vetenskaplig intellektuell egendom och att dela kunskaper sinsemellan. Science Commons mål är att inom rådande upphovsrätts- och patentlagstiftning arbeta för att främja legala och tekniska åtgärder som undanröjer barriärer för kunskapsdelning. Science Commons är ett försök att tillämpa Creative Commons filosofi och verksamheter på det vetenskapliga området.

Uppsök

I november lanserades LIBRIS Uppsök, en fritt tillgänglig söktjänst

för examensarbeten och studentuppsatser gjorda vid svenska lärosäten. <http://uppsok.libris.kb.se/sru/uppsok>

Uppsök erbjuder möjligheten att i en söktjänst söka efter, läsa och ta del av flera tusen examensarbeten och studentuppsatser från svenska högskolor. Målgruppen för söktjänsten är främst studenter, allmänhet och näringsliv som behöver lättillgänglig information inom något ämne. För närvarande bidrar ett tiotal svenska universitet och högskolor till innehållet i Uppsök, med flera högskolor som anslutes inom kort.

ScieCom Workshop i Lund 2005-01-21

"Har du grepp om begreppen? Att undervisa forskare och doktorander i vetenskaplig kommunikation."

Den dynamiska utvecklingen inom vetenskaplig kommunikation har medfört många frågor om vilka konsekvenser nya publicerings- och finansieringsmodeller kan få för forskare och forskning. Flera av de begrepp och koncept som diskuteras är okända för forskarna och det är viktigt att kunna ge dem korrekt information .

Boka dagen redan nu och sprid information till alla som är involverade i denna typ av undervisning.

Mer information på http://www.lub.lu.se/sciecom/workshop_050121.html

ScieComs redaktion

ScieComs redaktion har utökats, se [kontaktsidan!](#)

Nyheter och Notiser är sammanställda av **Ingegerd Rabow**, projektledare ScieCom, förste bibliotekarie Lunds Universitets Bibliotek, Biblioteksdirektionen
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Denmark's Electronic Research Library: e-publishing initiatives 2004- 05

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The programme area for electronic scholarly publishing was established by Denmark's Electronic Research Library (Danmarks Elektroniske Forskningsbibliotek – DEF) during the Summer 2003 with the following mandate:

"The area includes projects within the field of electronic publishing, cooperation with the Danish National Research Database and coordination with a view to ensuring that local initiatives adhere to standards and exchange experiences about technical solutions for e-publishing." [1]

Vision

"Return science to the scientists" [2]

- contribute to creating organisational, economic and technological frames for internationally orientated scholarly communication, so that universities and public sector research institutions and not commercial publishers are primarily considered.

Aims

The programme area *Denmark's Electronic Research Publishing* initiates investigations and projects related to future scholarly communication and publishing of relevance to Danish research.

The overall aim is twofold:

- to contribute to open access to Danish research results to the greatest possible extent
- to contribute to the exposition of Danish research, its institutions and scholars as effectively as possible in the international digital knowledge-sharing and communication.

This presupposes working with technical and organisational solutions across Danish universities, research institutions and research libraries and that this takes place in cooperation with international initiatives. Likewise, it presupposes that models for e-publishing are developed in cooperation with publishers and that cooperation on standards and software is developed. The Danish National Research Database is part of a national research portal related to communication between society and research. [3]

Action lines

The action lines and the actual projects help realise the vision of DEF and are in accordance with DEF's mission, for example by increasing the volume of online information for scholars and students as well as improving the possibilities for open access i.e. access without using the commercial publishers.

The activities of the programme areas are organised in **5 action lines**

Generally, standardisation, rights, dialogue and mediation

The area covers general organisational and political issues as well as standardisation developments, copyright and publishing rights, dialogue with scholars, decision-makers and authorities, international monitoring and contact coordination in relation to the other e-publishing areas (see below) and with any other relevant DEF-initiatives.

Storage of e-published information

The area covers the need for a national policy and standard for digital storage and future-orientated access to e-published scientific information. There is a specific need for the establishment of a national service with identifiers to digital objects (URN, DOI etc.), recommendations of national guidelines for metadata formats and a clarification of the interplay with legal deposit.

Institutional Repositories

The area covers Institutional Repositories, IR – digital archives with open access at the individual institutions within research and higher education. These will typically contain objects such as publications and grey literature, data sets, programmes and simulations, audio-visual material, learning objects and courses.

Scientific journals

The area covers electronic publishing of peer-reviewed journals. In keeping with the international initiatives SPARC, BOAI and PLoS [4] work is concentrated particularly on support to e-publishing of journals that are anchored in Danish universities or research institutions.

I. Preprints, reports etc.

The area covers preprint-, eprint-, report servers etc. – i.e. the entire area which was previously referred to as 'grey literature', but which has gained considerable importance as an alternative to commercial journals – quicker and with free access.

The Danish National Research Database

The area covers further development of the Danish National Research Database, including its relation to the other areas by way of its role as common national search service, not least in the interplay with Institutional Repositories.

Research portal

In cooperation with VTU, research institutions and research councils DEF establishes a research portal as one collective access to information on research in Denmark. The research portal represents the popular scientific aspect where research communication takes place between society and research. The Danish National Research Database is an important basic element in the research portal. See for example <http://www.forskning.no> and <http://www.weten.nl>.

Goals

Ambitious **goals for 2004-05** are:

- 8-10 universities have decided in principle that their researchers submit research results for presentation/publishing in the university's digital research archive. The goal concerns exclusively scientific articles and PhD dissertations where the authors have no commercial interest at stake. The goal is that through international and national contracts with publishers, the researchers seek to preserve the rights to electronic publishing of their own articles – as a minimum in the university's digital research archive – possibly later supplemented with a staggered publishing on the university's external web
- suggestions have been prepared for a national infrastructure for institutional digital archives, incl. frames for further development, maintenance, quality control, business models and cooperation models
- institutional archives are installed at a number of CVUs

(Centres of further education) on the basis of the national infrastructure and cooperation model

- an analysis and design for a coherent national model for digital preservation of scholarly publishing has been completed
- a model for the establishing of a national service with suggestions for identifiers for digital objects (URN, DOI etc) has been developed
- recommendations for national guidelines for metadata formats have been prepared as well as a clarification of the interplay with legal deposit
- e-migration of at least two peer-reviewed scholarly journals has been completed in cooperation with innovative research editors
- an analysis and an experiment have been carried out with modern peer-review as an overlay service on (pr)eprint servers and institutional digital archives
- tests have been conducted on the exploitation of the institutional digital archives for presentation of educational material, including learning objects
- The Danish National Research Database has achieved a degree of coverage of 90% of the universities and major research- and sector research institutions, and that they are included with 100% of their annual production of publications and other non-textual material (e.g. multimedia published research results)
- The Danish National Research Database is established as national search service, based on an interdisciplinary technical infrastructure which connects the institutional digital archives with the Danish National Research Database, thereby making reuse of metadata possible
- a cooperation and an organisation have been established to facilitate the establishment of the national research portal based on further development of the Danish National Research Database in combination with other relevant research information placed in decentral databases
- DEF has an active role in the establishment of a virtual reference service in the research portal; where the public can ask questions and receive answers like in [www](#).

- stakeholders (universities, research councils, ministries, research institutions and libraries) have been informed, have been communicated with and had knowledge transferred at technical, organisational and political level.

Communication and mediation

The e-publishing group sees communication and mediation as a means to obtain the listed goals in the Action plan 2004-2005.

The target groups of the e-publishing area for communication are divided into:

- universities, research institutions etc.
- libraries and relevant potential cooperation partners.

The programme area's policy is that communication and mediation should be an integrated part of the projects. Project mediation can happen in different ways and using different media according to the character of the project, the objective of the mediation and the target group. Mediation will typically take place via reports, memos, articles, workshops and meetings with a specific theme or a combination of these. The mediation in the individual projects is coordinated between the projects and is planned in unison when this is relevant.

An updated list of mediation activities will be available at <http://www.deflink.dk/>

Notes and links

[1] from: Programme areas in Denmark's Electronic Research Library, distributed July 2003

[2] source: SPARC

[3] cf VTU (Ministry of Science, Technology and Development) Think tank concerning mediation of Danish research, see action line

[4] SPARC: Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition – <http://www.sparceurope.org/>

BOAI: Budapest Open Access Initiative – <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>

PLoS: Public Library of Science – <http://www.plos.org/>

OA awareness rises rapidly in Finland

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The year 2003 was a clear turning point concerning the awareness among Finnish academics and academic librarians of the possibilities of open access publishing. A workshop organised by the Hanken business school to disseminate the results of the EU-project SciX provided the impulse for the founding of a working group that lobbies for wider adoption of Open Access in Finland. FinnOA is chaired by Professor Bo-Christer Björk and includes representatives from the central Finnish organisations affected by OA; the national library, several universities and university libraries, the association of scientific societies, research institutes etc. In addition to the main working group, which meets regularly about every two months, a number of task groups for institutional repositories, journal publishing and information dissemination have been established.

Early on FinnOA decided to organize a seminar to effectively spread information about the possibilities of open access. This two-day seminar was organized in January 2004 as an "Open Access" event with no participation fee from the over 200 participants. This

format was made possible thanks to a grant from the Finnish Academy for covering the costs of the foreign speakers (David Prosser from SPARC Europe, Ingegerd Rabow from Lund University Libraries, Leo Waijers from the Dutch Dare project and Natascha Robshow from BioMedCentral). The seminar was very successful, according to the feedback received from many participants, and the press coverage was also very helpful. In particular, Helsingin Sanomat, the main Finnish daily newspaper, devoted a whole page to the seminar in its science section.

At this stage there were already a few top academic policy makers who had become aware of the overall issue at stake, including the chancellor of the Helsinki University Kari Raivio, who in fact had opened the FinnOA seminar. In August the Ministry of Education, after some consultations with FinnOA members, organised a round table discussion on a high level, and this has led to the appointment of a formal work group appointed by the Minister of Education. This work group is on a very high level, including the head of the Finnish Academy, the chairman of the council of university rectors and the ministry official in charge of Finnish science policy. The mandate is to produce recommendations concerning Open Access policies and actions to research funding organisation, universities and publishing organisations. The timetable is very short, the recommendations should be ready by the end of January 2005.

In parallel with these high level political events a number of universities are carrying out more practical activities in order to develop the infrastructure for the creation of institutional repositories. Besides testing open source software for institutional archives like D-Space, operational solutions to make already existing publication databases OAI-compatible have been developed. The National library is testing the ENCompass software for digital collections (DOMS) together with some university libraries. One of the questions that we need to focus on is the harmonisation of meta data, possibly through national and Nordic recommendations. A national seminar on institutional archives is planned to take place in January 2005.

In addition to these more practically oriented activities a small research group devoted to Open Access and to how the scientific communication process is affected by the Internet has been formed at the Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration (HANKEN) in Helsinki. In the SciX project HANKEN researchers collaborated with researchers from Slovenia, Austria, England, Spain and Iceland in the setting up of a discipline-oriented repository of scientific e-prints. HANKEN's role was in particular to study the changing economics of the scientific publishing process and barriers to change towards Open Access. This work is now being followed up in the four year OACS (Open Access Communication for Science) project funded by the Academy of

Finland. In this project copyright issues receive more attention. The OACS homepages contain all publications produced by the group to date, also including results from the SciX project.

Svensk sammanfattning

OA medvetandet ökar snabbt i Finland

Året 2003 var en vändpunkt för OA medvetandet i Finland. Då grundades en informell arbetsgrupp, FinnOA, vars uppgift är att sprida information om Open Access. Arbetsgruppens största kraftansträngning hittills var det mycket välbesökta seminariet i januari 2004, där ett flertal utländska gästföreläsare, inklusive Ingegerd Rabow från Lunds universitet, deltog. Delvis som ett resultat av detta har det finska undervisningsdepartementet i september 2004 tillsatt en kommitté på hög politisk nivå som med en ganska snabb tidtabell skall ta fram konkreta rekommendationer för forskningens finansiärer, universiteten, de vetenskapliga föreningarna mm. På det mer konkreta planet bedrivs testnings- och pilotarbete med universitetens digitala forskningsarkiv, bla utvärderar man D-Space. På Svenska Handelshögskolan bedrivs även akademisk forskning inom området, bla uppmärksammas upphovsrättsfrågorna.

Counting the buttons: rewarding research

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Misuse of journal impact factors?

Should and/or could journal impact factors be used in a result-based plan for financing research, which primarily rewards scientific quality documented through publications or other "products"?

This was proposed 28 February 2003 by the Publishing Committee at the University of Oslo. According to the Senate, the University's highest administrative and academic authority, up to 100 million Norwegian Crowns could be allocated using the proposed model.

[1]

The University of Oslo Library was very critical to the proposal and meant that journal impact factors could not be used as a basis of a model for a result-based scheme for financing research which primarily rewards scientific quality documented by publications or other "products". The University of Oslo Library based its opinion on the fact that both ISI and a number of researchers considered that journal impact factors cannot be used as criteria for quality.

Dr Eugene Garfield, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, ISI, writes (Der Unfallchirurg 1998; 48(2):413)

"The source of much anxiety about Journal Impact Factors comes from their misuse in evaluating individuals, e.g. during the

Habilitation process. In many countries in Europe, I have found that in order to shortcut the work of looking up actual (real) citation counts for investigators the journal impact factor is used as a surrogate to estimate the count. I have always warned against this use. There is wide variation from article to article within a single journal as has been widely documented by Per O. Seglen of Norway and others."

Professor Per O Seglen, NIFU, Oslo concludes in his article "Why the impact factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research" [2]

"Summary points

- Use of journal impact factors conceals the difference in article citation rates (articles in the most cited half of articles in a journal are cited 10 times as often as the least cited half)
- Journals' impact factors are determined by technicalities unrelated to the scientific quality of their articles
- Journal impact factors depend on the research field: high impact factors are likely in journals covering large areas of basic research with a rapidly expanding but short lived literature that use many references per article
- Article citation rates determine the journal impact factor, not vice versa"

Professor Seglen also warns against negative consequences for scientists' publication behaviour by using journal impact factors.

"The increasing awareness of journal impact factors, and the possibility of their use in evaluation, is already changing scientists' publication behaviour towards publishing in journals with maximum impact, often at the expense of specialist journals that might actually be more appropriate vehicles for the research in question."

Professor Seglen considers that there is a weak correlation between journal impact factor and the number of citations for one single article.

"The uneven contribution of the various articles to the journal impact is further illustrated in figure 2): the cumulative curve shows that the most cited 15% of the articles account for 50% of the citations, and the most cited 50% of the articles account for 90% of the citations. In other words, the most cited half of the articles are cited, on average, 10 times as often as the least cited half. Assigning the same score (the journal impact factor) to all articles masks this tremendous difference—which is the exact opposite of what an evaluation is meant to achieve. Even the uncited articles are then given full credit for the impact of the few

highly cited articles that predominantly determine the value of the journal impact factor."

"Since any large, random sample of journal articles will correlate well with the corresponding average of journal impact factors, the impact factors may seem reasonably representative after all. However, the correlation between journal impact and actual citation rate of articles from individual scientists or research groups is often poor".

Professor Seglen also points out that journal impact factors are dependent on the subject field. The committee has taken this into account in the suggested model by using ISI's 200 subject fields and that the 12% of the "best" articles in the world are classified as category A, the next "best" as category B and the rest as category C.

BioMed Central also considers that the usage of journal impact factors can be an obstacle for authors wishing to publish their articles in open access journals. [3]

BMC 2003 wrote:

"ISI currently only "tracks" a minority of the 80 BioMed Central open-access journals. If a journal is not tracked it will not have an impact factor. Despite their imperfections as a measure, impact factors and/or "ISI tracking" are widely used as an indicator of research quality, and this may deter some potential authors from submitting papers to new journals."

"Furthermore, when trying to examine how often a particular paper is cited, ISI is limited to the reference lists of "tracked" journals. This means that citations from one open-access journal article to another on BioMed Central are frequently missed by ISI's database."

Open Access of Information

There is today a worldwide movement towards Open Access of Information. The introduction of a system that might deter authors from publishing their article in an open access journal is very unfortunate. Officially the University of Oslo supports the two routes to open access:

- open access journals with author-fees and/or institutional subscriptions to author-pays journals
- institutional e-print repositories where scientists can self-archive their preprint or published papers

Open access journals

The Library of Medicine and Health Sciences pays the institutional

member's fee to BioMed Central, which means that all the scientists at University of Oslo can publish articles free of charge in BioMed Central journals.

Institutional repositories

The institutional repository, DUO – Digital publishing at the University of Oslo [4], is run by the University of Oslo Library. DUO is a system for net-based publishing. That is, support for authors, conversion, submission, searching and archiving of UiO's electronic publications in diverse formats. DUO is developed by the University Centre for Information Technology and the University of Oslo Library.

The challenge in setting up an institutional repository is not a technological issue (although the problems of long-term preservation are very far from being solved), but consists of managerial, organizational and cultural issues. The biggest problem is persuading faculty to use such a depository, i.e. submitting documents for inclusion.

For other than postgraduate students, it is difficult for the University to have a policy of compulsory deposit. However, DUO is trying to persuade the University of Oslo to introduce a policy whereby research output is expected to be deposited in the DUO repository. The library has submitted a proposal to the University that a part of the departmental budget should be allocated according to the number of deposited papers in DUO and/or published in Open Access journals.

All researchers at the University of Oslo must report their published papers in FRIDA (ForskningResultater, Informasjon og Dokumentasjon av vitenskapelige Aktiviteter). FRIDA is used to allocate resources to the various departments at the University of Oslo, according to the number of published scientific papers, based on journal impact factors. In order that the scientific personnel can avoid registering their electronic documents twice, FRIDA will be extended so that electronic documents will be registered in FRIDA and then will be transferred automatically to DUO.

Conclusion

The University of Oslo is committed to Open Access publishing but our efforts at the University of Oslo Library might be obstructed by a resource-allocating system based on journal impact factors. During 2004 10 million Norwegian Crowns were allocated through the system based on these.

Links

[1] (Forskning med tellekanter: publiseringsutvalgets innstilling. Oslo: Universitetet i Oslo, 2003.) <http://www.admin.uio.no/sfa/forskning/forskkom>

[2] (BMJ 1997; 314 (7079):498-502)

<http://bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/314/7079/497>

[3] http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/authors/citation_tracking

[4] The institutional repository, DUO – Digital publishing at the University of Oslo, <http://www.duo.uio.no/englishindex.html>

Norsk sammanfattning

14. juni 2002 oppnevnte rektor ved Universitetet i Oslo et publiseringsutvalg. Publiseringsutvalget fikk følgende mandat: Utarbeide en skisse til et resultatbasert opplegg for finansiering av forskning, som først og fremst premierer vitenskapelig kvalitet dokumentert gjennom publikasjoner eller andre "produkter". Utvalget bes legge særlig vekt på å finne frem til et opplegg som tar hensyn til de store forskjellene som eksisterer mellom ulike fag- og fagtradisjoner med hensyn til publiseringsmønster, samarbeid i forskningsgrupper og andre forhold som kan ha betydning for valg av kriterier, og utforme modellen slik at den vil være rimelig enkel i bruk og ikke påfører universitetet store administrasjonskostnader. Bruksområdet vil i første omgang være UiO internt, men det vil være ønskelig at utvalgets opplegg utformes slik at det i hovedtrekk kan generaliseres også til andre norske universiteter.

Publiseringsutvalget la frem sin innstilling 28. februar 2003, Forskning med tellekanter. Publiseringsutvalget forslag til modell for bruk av publikasjoner som resultatfaktor inn i finansieringsmodellen for forskning var basert på journal impact factors. Innstillingen ble sendt på høring 5. mars 2003.

Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo var meget kritisk i sin høringsuttalelse. Universitetsbiblioteket konkluderte med at journal impact factors ikke kan anvendes som modell for et resultatbasert opplegg for finansiering av forskning og at en slik modell kan motvirke overgangen til et nytt system for vitenskapelig publisering for eksempel overgang til publisering i fritt tilgjengelige e-tidsskrifter - Open Access tidsskrifter.

Current activities in scholarly publishing and communication issues in Sweden

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Dysfunctionality and current problems in scholarly publishing and communication have during the latest years caught increasing attention from the scientific community. The creation of SPARC [1], the Budapest Open Access Initiative [2], recent reports from the Wellcome Trust are but few examples of an emerging movement stemming from criticism of the current model where the scientific community more or less have outsourced publishing and dissemination to corporate companies.

Swedish universities and university colleges

Decision makers at Swedish universities and university colleges have during the last two years gradually devoted more attention to the current problems. Originating from concern of the continuous price increases of scholarly journals the Swedish Association of Higher Education (SUHF) [3] in 2002 commissioned a study on library related issues.

The Annual General Meeting of SUHF in 2003 accepted the recommendations of the study: "Roads for Knowledge – the need for a new strategy for universities and their libraries" [4].

Regarding scholarly publishing the most important observations and recommendations were:

There is a need for changes in the current system for scholarly publishing

The universities need to establish conditions for creating professional publishing services within universities and university colleges

As of today the libraries are the natural choice for the organisation of such activities.

Based on the study SUHF has appointed a working group to deal with several important aspects of the scientific publishing process as well as intellectual property rights, tenure and promotion processes and their relation to the current publishing system. The working group shall as well promote alternative approaches based on university publishing and other initiatives for open access publishing.

Currently the working group is dealing with intellectual property rights (IPR) agreements that will secure that researchers can publish, disseminate and archive publications on university servers (institutional repositories).

New IPR agreements will focus on the author´s right to use the document, that the copyright should remain with the author and that this will be acknowledged by the publisher in the copyright line. The author will retain the right to use the document for research, educational or other purposes of the author´s university/institution. The IPR-agreement will as well allow that the document can be mounted on a server within the domains of the institution and/or posted to free public servers of preprints and/or articles in the author´s subject area.

The Annual General Meeting of SUHF October 2004 decided to sign the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities, and this will be followed by an attempt to raise the issues of scholarly communication and open access for the Swedish Research Council.

The working group will initiate a study as to current practice and implementation of tenure and promotion schemes and their dependency on existing measures of research impact (i.e. journal impact factors) in order to be able to recommend additional measures, for instance including citation counts of open accessible versions of documents, downloads etc.

The SUHF working group will as well shortly deal with a common format for registration of publications in order to pave the way for standardization of university based publication databases and cross evaluation of research output and impact.

Electronic publishing

Although not a new activity [5] a number of universities and university colleges are now working on developing their electronic publishing services, often initiated by the libraries. To a certain extent the recommendations of the SUHF have helped in that regard but at least equally important is that a number of university libraries has entered a common project – the SVEP project - coordinated by BIBSAM [6].

The SVEP project [7] is a Swedish national project aiming at coordinating and supporting e-publishing activities at universities and university colleges in Sweden.

The aim of the SVEP project is to promote, support and coordinate electronic publishing at Swedish universities and university colleges. Running from September 2003 to September 2005 with funds from BIBSAM, the activities within the project are carried out in collaboration between a number of Swedish university and university college libraries and the National Library.

The main areas for the work within the SVEP project are: interoperability, preservation, dissemination and advice as to which software to use for institutional repositories. The SVEP project has as well run a series of workshops and seminars in order to raise the awareness of the issues and as well to establish contact between staff involved in setting up electronic publishing activities at the Swedish universities. One of the first specific deliverables of the project is an integrated search service for Swedish undergraduate theses and diploma work using OAI-PMH.

Raising awareness of the issues

As indicated above SUHF – that is the vice-chancellors and university directors of the Swedish universities and university colleges – has devoted attention to the current problems in the scholarly publishing system and voted in favor of open access to the intellectual output from their institutions. The libraries at these institutions are also busy in developing and implementing electronic publishing services – institutional repositories. What is still to do is to bring the issues to the agenda of the major research funders and to the level of government.

Of course the activities performed within the network of the Swedish Resource Centre for Scientific Communication (SRVK) helps a lot in this regard but hopefully the signature of the Swedish Universities and University Colleges on the Berlin Declaration will facilitate that the research funders will take notice of the issues.

Notes and links

[1] <http://www.arl.org/sparc/>

[2] <http://www.soros.org/openaccess/>

[3] The membership of SUHF is the 40 Swedish universities and university colleges - <http://www.suhf.se/>

[4] <http://www.suhf.se/pdf/Biblioteksrapporten.pdf> - summary of recommendations on pages 21-22.

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[5] A number of Swedish universities have in operation dissertation databases with fulltext and institutional repositories.

[6] BIBSAM - the Royal Library's Department for National Co-ordination and Development - <http://www.kb.se/ENG/kbstart.htm>

[7] <http://www.svep-projekt.se/>

Svensk sammanfattning

Artikeln ger en överblick över pågående arbete i Sverige kring vetenskaplig publicering och kommunikation. Arbetet inom SUHF och särskilt SUHFs arbetsgrupp för informationsförsörjning redovisas översiktligt. Även det pågående arbetet med elektronisk publicering och implementering av institutionella arkiv inom Sveriges universitet och högskolor och SVEP-projektet redovisas.