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

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

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

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**FINLAND**

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

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

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

**NORWAY**

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

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

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

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

(Summary by Ingegerd Rabow)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Link to the Policy (in English)

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

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

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

## **SWEDEN**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## INTERNATIONAL

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

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

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

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

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

#### *Three important issues*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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