

DANISH OPEN ACCESS NETWORK (DOAN)

- A new Open Access network established

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Introduction

From the 9th – 10th September 2009 14 people from 8 Danish universities and other institutions, all with connections to libraries and institutions/activities connected with meta-research activities, met in the Danish town of Roskilde to start the Danish Open Access Network (DOAN).

The Network is a follow-up activity to the one year DEFF project “Public Access to Danish Research”, which ended in April 2009.¹

The aim of the Network, which is supported by Denmark’s Electronic Research Library (DEFF)² is to:

- Spread knowledge about OA in Denmark
- Spread knowledge about OA to a wider library audience
- Support DEFF’s program areas in defining and realising plans and projects concerned with OA
- Support for Knowledge Exchange (KE)³ activities in the area
- Ensure that DEFF/KE activities are in line with the research possibilities and conditions of universities and research institutions

During the two days spent in Roskilde, the participants discussed the aims of the network and how the network should operate and communicate. As inspiration smaller groups worked with ideas on how to get researchers interested in open access and ideas for open access activities in open access week which starts on the 19th October.

Open access from a researcher’s view point:

How do external practitioners work and how can open access influence their work? Professor Steen Markvorsen, Danish Technical University, Department of Mathematics, gave a very illustrative account of his research process from idea/experiment to access to and preservation of research results. For

him access to research publications was essential to his own research activities: in his own words: “Metadata is God!”.

Important principles for Professor Steen Markvorsen were: more effective communication routines and transparency, which lead to better access to research results, which in turn leads to inspiration from across different disciplines. The latter could also be realised through his dream of the “complete repository planet”, with coverage also going back in time. The preservation of research results was an important factor for Professor Steen Markvorsen.

What else is happening in Denmark?

Mikael K. Elbæk (Denmarks Technical University Library), Bertil Dorch (Center for Scholarly Communication (CfCS), Copenhagen University Library and Information Service) and Anne Sandfær (Denmark’s Electronic Research Library/Knowledge Exchange) then gave a brief overview of various open access activities in Denmark. Activities such as the DEFF project on increasing open access in Denmark that has just ended (which has already been mentioned), the groups and activities under Knowledge Exchange and Nordbib⁴, DEFF’s new project group⁵ on open access together with participants from other government agencies, as well as the recent Houghton report “Costs and benefits of alternative publishing models: Denmark”⁶ were covered in short status reports.

The Danish Open Access Network and www.open-access.dk:

The main concern of the two day event was the establishment of DOAN and not least to plan and launch the website www.open-access.dk.

¹ See the report by Mikael K. Elbæk in ScieCom Info, vol. 5, nr. 2.

² Denmark’s Electronic Research Library: <http://www.deff.dk/default.aspx?lang=english>

³ Knowledge Exchange: <http://www.knowledge-exchange.info/>

⁴ Nordbib: <http://www.nordbib.net/>

⁵ News item on DEFF’s new open access project group: <http://www.deff.dk/content.aspx?itemguid={604ADF5D-F6E6-4CC9-8E85-D6735D1ADC6D}>

⁶ Houghton report on Denmark: <http://www.deff.dk/showfile.aspx?IdGuid={8288B54C-FC4F-40C4-A09C-67429DC32338}>

The aim of the website is to communicate news about open access activities in Denmark and will include profiles of institutions in Denmark working with open access and contain a FAQ and a glossary of open access terms. Importantly, it will also in one place collect the official documents related to open access.

The website will also include a calendar of open access activities in Denmark as well as a number of syndicated blogs related to open access in Denmark and abroad.

An editorial group was set up at the meeting to establish and update the website, which is planned to go live during international open access week.

What now?

A group has now been established which can help to focus activities on open access in Denmark, there will be a website which can also communicate open access news and facts to researchers, but the participants at the meeting in Roskilde were under no illusions as to the difficulties which lie ahead!



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