

Denmark's Electronic Research Library: e-publishing initiatives 2004- 05

Annette Winkel Schwarz, Director,
Technical Knowledge Center of Denmark
aws@dtv.dk



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/>