

## A SHORT REPORT OF A SUCCESSFUL OA SYMPOSIUM HELD IN ICELAND ON APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 2010

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This short symposium was held at the National and University Library of Iceland on OA to scientific scholarly information. It was organized by an interest group on OA in Iceland with four members which are: Áslaug Agnarsdóttir, National and University Library of Iceland ([aslagn@bok.hi.is](mailto:aslagn@bok.hi.is)), Sólveig Thorsteinsdóttir, director of the National Hospital Library ([solveig@landspitali.is](mailto:solveig@landspitali.is)), Ian Watson ([ian@bifrost.is](mailto:ian@bifrost.is)) and Njördur Sigurjónsson ([njordur@bifrost.is](mailto:njordur@bifrost.is)) teachers at the University of Bifröst.

The symposium began by an introduction to open access in Iceland by Solveig Thorsteinsdottir, director of the National Hospital Library.

The main speaker of the symposium was Peter Suber, one of the chief advocates of open access in the United States.

Other speakers from Iceland were Katrin Valgeirsdóttir from the Centre for Research (RANNÍS) and Ari Kristinn Jónsson, rector of Reykjavik University and a member of the Science and Technology Council. The symposium was open to all. Peters Suber's presentation was well received. He gave good advice to Icelanders regarding the move towards OA in Iceland. He received many questions from the audience which consisted of a mixture of scientists, publishers, teachers at the universities and librarians.

One of the highlights of the symposium was the introduction of the Science and Technology Policy for 2010 – 2012 presented by Katrin Valgeirsdóttir one of the speakers. The policy states:

### The Science and Technology Policy Council recommendations on Open access to research findings

- Research findings are of limited use unless they are accessible to those that work in research or in innovation and technical development. Access to publicly funded research findings must be ensured, as that will contribute to efficient use of research. It is necessary to examine closely the legal and financial aspects of open access and intellectual property rights with regard to research findings.
- **The Science and Technology Policy Council recommends:**
- To **mandate** that publicly funded research findings will be published through open access and to develop a public policy thereof.
- To pay attention to the necessary open access infrastructure that can coordinate databases and access to them and ensure permanent preservation.
- To define utilisation rights of findings from research carried out in public institutions or in cooperation between public institutions and individuals or companies.
- To promote general awareness raising within the research and innovation community concerning the importance of open access to research findings.
- By demanding that publicly funded research findings shall be accessible to all within reasonable boundaries, industry and individuals, outside of institutions, have the possibility to apply research findings for creating capital value and improving society.

The role of the Science and Technology Policy Council is to promote scientific research and research training in the sciences and encourage technological progress in Iceland, for the purpose of strengthening the foundations of the country's culture and boosting the competitive capacity of its economy.

Operating under the direction of the Prime Minister and consisting of ministers, scientists and business representatives, the Council formulates public policy on scientific research and technological development. This recommendation is important regarding the development of OA in Iceland. There are no OA mandates yet in Iceland and the recommendation should make it easier for Icelandic universities, research institutions and funders to issue an OA mandate for Icelandic researchers.

Prior to the conference a special Icelandic OA web-page was opened: Openaccess.is which is a website designed to help the Icelandic research and scholarly community access and understand the international open access movement.

The web page is hosted by the National and University Library of Iceland and the responsibility of the OA interest group. The presentations are hosted on the web-page both recorded and also in power point accessible from:

<http://openaccess.is/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,de tail,0&cntnt01articleid=2&cntnt01returnid=15>



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