

## A ROAD MAP FOR OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH RESULTS

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“Paving the ways for open science” was the challenging title of a symposium arranged in Helsinki on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May by the FinnOA working group chaired by Marjut Salokannel together with the University of Helsinki and the CSC – IT Center for Science. The symposium made an effort in bringing together the actors involved in the process of producing research and making available the research results.

Thomas Wilhelmsson, rector of the University of Helsinki focused on the “green road” to open access. The University of Helsinki is in line with leading Universities world wide applying a mandate<sup>1</sup> to deposit a copy of research articles in an open access archive. The implementation process has been rather long for the whole university and the assumption is, that the operational phase will start in full scale in the autumn 2010. The aim is to make the process of uploading copies of research articles as easy as possible for the researchers.

The morning session included presentations by Ilkka Turunen, Secretary General from the Research and Innovation Council in Finland and Francesco Fusaro, from the European Commission, Directorate-General for Research. Ilkka Turunen’s topic was open innovation and open innovation strategies in Finland. In order to create new innovations, knowledge and information has to be combined and therefore the openness and accessibility should be a core principle. One of the conclusions was that open innovation and collaboration between companies nationally and internationally provides a large base of resources and ideas that can be utilized.

Francesco Fusaro stressed the importance of access and dissemination of research results; in order to avoid duplication of research, and to improve the return of EC investments and to maximize the scientific and socioeconomic impact. The developments made in open access to research are due to the policies of the funding bodies and universities mandating open access. The EU open access pilot is based on the self

archiving of research results from 7 thematic areas. The DG project OpenAIRE is supporting the EU open access pilot in developing an open access infrastructure for research in Europe based on the existing repositories.

In the following discussion questions were raised about the role of the member states regarding open access policy and the sustainability of the funding decisions to support open access. Also the issue of long term preservation was raised. In his response Francesco Fusaro commented on the experimental and transitional nature of the project.

The afternoon session and discussion focused on national aspects of open access. Director Pirjo Hiidenmaa from the Finnish Academy (the main research funder in Finland) reminded that the recommendation from the Academy is that research funded by public means should be public. The research funding bodies are also committed to the Berlin declaration on open access. Pirjo Hiidenmaa stressed the importance to also remember the differences between scientific disciplines, and that publishing can be made in different languages. It should be remembered, that open access publishing channels do not take a stand on language issues.

Veera Ristikartano, special planning officer from the University of Helsinki described the process of implementing the mandate decision within the university organization. The biggest effort has been in managing the copyright process and as part of the project a survey has been sent out to Finnish publishers asking about policy issues, copyright transfer and publishing agreements. The results will add to the information provided in the Sherpa/Romeo database. In her presentation Veera Ristikartano stressed the democratic aspects in providing access to research information. Open access publishing is also enabling information crossing disciplinary borders, a fact which might not be possible in library acquisition policies.

In the following discussion Toni Suutari, representing the Finnish Scientific publishers, commented that the publishers generally are positive towards open access but that no general agreement or declaration has been made. The open access policies should however take into account all stakeholders in the publishing process

<sup>1</sup> The decision by rector Ilkka Niiniluoto in 2008 and the mandate has been described by Marjut Salokannel in her article “University of Helsinki opens its research vaults”. ScieCom info 2 (2008) <http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/viewFile/653/447>

and that an open discussion and a national strategy for scientific publishing are needed. Publishers are still important actors in maintaining scientific publishing and need compensation for their work. Claus Montonen, docent in Physics from the University of Helsinki concluded from the researchers' point of view, that there is a demand for sustainability and for an assurance of permanence in subject based

and institutional repositories. Decisions on funding need to be on a long-term basis. The audience was obviously interested in continuing the discussion on the issue of open access, so in the sense of "paving the way" this symposium reached its goal. The presentations and more information about the symposium can be accessed at <http://www.finnoa.fi/?p=420>



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