

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the May issue of ScieCom info. Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific Communication

The managing of intellectual property rights in a new publishing environment is an area where there is a lot of insecurity - not to say confusion. Two of the articles in this issue discuss these problems.

Bertil Dorch et al describe the recently established *hprints.org* – a Nordic initiative and the first of its kind in the Nordic countries. *hprints.org* is an Open Access repository for scholarly documents within the arts & humanities and the social sciences. Copyright and authors' rights were seen as key issues. The SURF/JISC / Knowledge Exchange "Licence to Publish" was created to support the principles of Open Access. This licence was chosen as the model licence for *hprints.org* and has now been translated into all five Nordic languages.

[Dorch, Bertil et al: "Utilizing hprints.org as a subject based research infrastructure"](#)

Karolina Lindh and Mikael Graffner present the results of a short survey on copyright and self-archiving policies applied by Nordic academic journals using the Open Journal System (OJS). They highlight the difficulties and differences in interpreting copyright agreements, and they conclude that the rights issue needs further attention. The copyright management function built into OJS is easy to handle, but the legalities of copyright are more difficult to manage for some of these small journals.

[Lindh, K., Graffner, M.: "Copyright agreements and licences used by Nordic OJS-journals"](#)

Copyright issues turn out to be something of a stumbling block also for the prestigious *Nobel Project*, which aims to make the Nobel Prize awarded work available as Open Access. Anna-Lena Johansson describes the project background, the cooperation with the Nobel Web AB, and the experiences from the pilot phase.

The main purpose of the pilot was to identify potential problems regarding copyright issues and digitalization of the publications, but also to create workflows and methods that could be used in a full scale project including all Nobel Laureates with 1-20 key publications each.

[Johansson, Anna-Lena: "Open Access to Nobel Prize awarded work – a pilot project"](#)

The hows and whats of Open Access policies are discussed by Lise Mikkelsen in "An introduction to the recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark", and by Peter Linde in "Beyond OA-policy".

Lise Mikkelsen comments on the recommendations and statements recently made public by the Danish Open Access Committee. The Committee was appointed by the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation after signing the 2007 European Council Conclusions on access to scientific knowledge in the digital age. She lists 14 Committee recommendations on how to implement Open Access in Denmark, e.g. a national Open Access policy should be established by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the focus should be on green Open Access, and, as far as possible, access should be free to the results of research funded by public money. The author sees the Committee

recommendations as the first steps towards a nation-wide open access strategy and believes that they have the potential to really accelerate the development of OA in Denmark.

[Mikkelsen, Lise: "An introduction to the recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark"](#)

In 2007, as the first HE-institution in Sweden, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) adopted an OA-mandate. After three years with the mandate, Peter Linde reflects on the outcome. How has the mandate influenced researcher behaviour? Have they made their work freely available? He found some answers by using the BTH publication database to compare article production and publication channels between 2005 and 2009. He realized how important it is that the principles of Open Access publishing are really understood by the researchers. They see a dilemma in the fact that they now both face demands from their institutional management to publish in ISI-journals to get evaluation points and face OA mandates from research funders and their institutional management. There is an acute need for guidelines, practical support, and adequate economic conditions to make this dilemma manageable.

[Linde, Peter: "Beyond OA-policy"](#)

Recently two successful OA events were arranged in our region; one in Iceland and one in Finland. Sólveig Thorsteinsdóttir gives ["A short report of a successful OA symposium held in Iceland on April 13th 2010"](#).

Turid Hedlund reports from the FinnOA symposium on the theme "Paving the ways for open science" in Helsinki. ["A road map for open access to research results"](#)

IN SHORT

- The DOAJ team in Lund reports that the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)* celebrates its 7 year anniversary and 5.000 journals. 107 countries are represented. Read more about the current status of DOAJ [here](#),
- The Norwegian Archive, Library and Museum Authority (ABM) has given funding for a NORA-based project (with University of Tromsø, University of Bergen and Telemark University College as participants) to collect information on the self-archiving policies of Norwegian journals and publishers. In collaboration with Sherpa this information will be entered into the Sherpa/RoMEO database continuously as the project collects it.

As always, your comments and ideas are very welcome

Ingegerd Rabow / Editor-in-chief