

Open Access, the next steps at Uppsala University

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The insistence of the scientific community and the general public that publicly financed research should be widely and quickly accessible without barriers is known as the Open Access movement. This is supported by new technologies and new economic models which are helping to create a greater diversity of complementary possibilities for the dissemination of scholarly work.

Strategies for Open Access support at Uppsala University

The issue of world wide scholarly communication strategies and support of open access in a practical way is being discussed at Uppsala University as at many other universities. Uppsala University is a highly diversified research university. Education and research are carried out in many fields across nine faculties, grouped in the three Disciplinary Domains of Arts and Social Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy, and Science and Technology.

Integrated digital environments

The university has focused on creating integrated university digital environments built on publishing and repository systems to report,

publish, preserve and archive Uppsala University resources rather than focusing on publishing in Open Access Journals only. That means the general strategy at Uppsala University is building support infrastructure and demonstrating the concept by examples.

It all started with the publication of doctoral theses and research reports which is of primary interest for the academic community. This helped to demonstrate the concept and convinced the local scholars of the potential which an institutional repository offers. It is important to stress that integration with local processes and routines was one of the pre-conditions for achieving this.

Uppsala University was one of the first universities in Scandinavia to set up a programme focusing on electronic publishing and building an institutional repository. In 2000 the Electronic Publishing Centre (EPC) was established as a part of the University Library. Its mandate was and is to focus on the development of technical solutions based on a well-functioning workflow for the fulltext publishing of all kinds of scientific publications in digital form.

To successfully maintain the publishing and repository activities it is necessary to establish good contacts with scholars. The EPC offers a wide range of services including courses in electronic publishing and lectures for doctoral students. A number of these initiatives have been in operation for the past four years and in some cases, for example at the Faculty of Medicine, this has resulted in mandatory courses in new forms of scholarly communication for new doctoral students.

As the primary concern of scientists is the wide dissemination of their research results, the solutions supporting this have provided the main focus while developing the underpinning infrastructure.

The possibilities for increasing the attractiveness of the Uppsala University institutional repository have been carefully examined and, in addition to free dissemination of metadata, a cooperation with a range of search services has started. Among these services which index our repository I can mention Google Scholar [1] and Scirus [2], a search service powered by Elsevier. I am convinced that the fact that Uppsala University is a part of a broader cooperation – the DiVA cooperative group – has helped to make all fifteen DiVA group members' local repositories more attractive for other services.

The next steps

The great support within the university has been demonstrated recently with a promise to extend these activities to all the faculties and to create a leading campus agency in teaching about

scholarly communication issues. This agency will be a part of the Electronic Publishing Centre and will focus on practical issues connected with publishing and self-archiving strategies.

Future developments are:

- To integrate the university DiVA [3] publishing and repository system with the On-line Publication Documentation System OPUS [4]
- To build supporting information and helpdesk functions focusing on self archiving in the DiVA Institutional Repository
- To build mechanisms and technical solutions for automatic tracking of journals policies for articles which are being deposited
- To extend mandatory courses and educational activities to all faculties

We expect these steps to result in a broad acceptance of the institutional repository at Uppsala University as well as improved understanding of the possibilities in which the new ways of scholarly communication will benefit our researchers.

Starting with mandatory publishing of comprehensive summaries of doctoral theses, we soon expect that all monograph theses will also be published digitally. In line with the current open access trend the university will start to fill the digital repository also with academic results published elsewhere by Uppsala scholars.

[1] <http://scholar.google.se/>

[2] <http://www.scirus.com/srsapp/>

[3] <http://www.diva-portal.org/about.xsql>

[4] <http://opus.uu.se/?lang=en>