

THE UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ ADOPTS AN INSTITUTIONAL OPEN ACCESS POLICY

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In its meeting October 14th 2010 the board of the University of Tromsø adopted an institutional Open Access policy. The policy document itself is to be found at this web address:

http://www.ub.uit.no/wiki/openaccess/images/0/05/UiT_prinsipper_for_Open_access.pdf

The original is in Norwegian, but there is a semi-official English version in the same document.

The policy states that the general rule is that students and researchers of the university shall deposit their theses and articles in Munin, the IR of the university. This is to be done within the constraints of the agreements between the authors and their publishers. The university library has the task of checking publisher policies and sort out versions that can be published, and ensure compliance with publisher policies and agreements.

The policy also states that as a general rule, researchers shall consider the Open Access potential of journals when choosing between journals of equal scientific worth and stature.

The third part of the policy states that the university shall endeavour to make its publications OA publications, and encourage self-archiving of the published PDF. While many institutions adopt policies regarding self-archiving and publishing for their students and researchers, adopting a policy for the institutions own publishing ventures is often forgotten.

There are – yet – no financial incentives being put in place to encourage adherence to the policy. Such incentives will be considered later, when and if the necessary statistics can be made easily available to the university.

However, the board signals that an institutional fund for paying article processing charges should be considered being established. It can be that the board in its December meeting will establish such a fund, a sum of NOK 300,000 has been rumoured.

The board also decided that the university shall sign the Berlin declaration.

While not ground-breaking, the university through adopting this policy has taken a decisive step forward in committing itself to the ideas and practices of Open Access, and it has shown willingness to put both pressure and financing behind these principles.



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