

CONFERENCE REPORT: MÖTESPLATS OPEN ACCESS 2010 NOVEMBER 24-25

Mikael Graffner, Kristoffer Holmqvist

The Swedish conference Mötesplats Open access held its fourth meeting on November 24-25 at Lund University. This year around 130 participants gathered for the one and half day-conference focusing on the development of Open access at Swedish higher education institutions.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor Sven Strömquist began by greeting everyone and underlined that the obstacles to Open access isn't a local och regional problem but a global one. Everyone needs to co-operate in order to promote the realization of Open access.

Invited key note speaker Alma Swan gave an informative speech on the benefits of Open access, highlighting among many other things the increase in visibility and citations. She also touched upon other interesting aspects of Open access such as societal value and how OA can strengthen the links between innovative private enterprises and public research institutes.

Open access for research data

Sven Strömquist and Nils Holmberg from the Humanities Lab, Lund University presented their work on how complex research data can be made available. The Humanities Lab research focuses on subjects such as Eye-tracking, Electroencephalography and Virtual Reality. A successful dissemination of the Research data is important to facilitate research cooperation and mobility of researchers and students and to solve potential conflicts between cultural institutions and research groups. The data however, must be aggregated and processed carefully, Holmberg explained. In the Richthoff-Corpus Project 300 hours of video and audio were transcribed and digitized. The metadata was generated in XML format and validated according to IMDI standards and then indexed in the Lamus-PMI database.

Urban Andersson and Sofia Arvidsson from Gothenburg University continued the session with a presentation on how Research Data from the Faculties of Humanities and Fine Arts can be made available and efficiently disseminated. The aim of their study was to investigate how the research data can be archived, how it could be made open access, and how the connection between the publication and its data should be defined.

OA policy and follow-up on OA demands

The topic for the next session was "OA policy and follow-up on OA demands". Bo Öhrström from the Danish Agency for Libraries and Media/Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF) described the work of the Danish Open Access Committee on how to implement an Open access policy in Denmark. The committee has come up with a set of recommendations (presented in this [report](#)) which include, among other things, adopting a national OA policy and the establishment of long-term preservation service for the universities' publications. A revised version of the report and a strategic plan for the implementation is to be delivered to the Danish Ministry of Science in December 2010.

Mats Ulfendahl discussed the OA policy recently introduced by the Swedish Research Council, and made it very clear that the council won't succumb to the objections raised from some parts of the scientific community. He acknowledged that there are indeed complicated cases, in particular when it comes to OA publishing in the field of chemistry, but also stressed that the solution isn't found by adjusting to the terms stipulated by the big publishers. In time, the system will mature and the routines of OA publishing will be more established.

Jan Hagerlid, National Library of Sweden and coordinator of OpenAccess.se, gave an interesting presentation of the OpenAIRE project and the new OpenAccess.se. OpenAIRE is an EU-project aimed at supporting researchers in complying with the OA policies used by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the European Research Council (ERC). If the project is a success, the OA policy will encompass all areas of the coming FP8 (in FP7 only 20 percent of the research is covered by the OA-policy). Hagerlid also presented the new OpenAccess.se, which has been transformed into a permanent program with 3 main areas: coordination of OA policy, information and support to researchers, infrastructure and services. The [web site](#) has been redesigned with a broader focus than before and a [blog](#) has also been launched aimed at everyone involved in OA in Sweden.

In January 2010 Chalmers University of Technology was the first institution in Sweden to adopt an Open

access policy. Jonas Gilbert presented the policy and shared some of the experiences at Chalmers so far. The transition to an OA culture is estimated to take at least 2-3 years but the policies from the research funders have made it easier to promote Chalmers' own policy on a local level.

Open access journals

The last session of the day focused on Open Access Journals. Anna Lundén, coordinator of the National Cooperation Department of the National Library gave some interesting views on possible Open Access claims on future national negotiations and license agreements. Some of the questions that were raised dealt with the possibilities of including the researchers' rights to self archive when their publications are included in national e-licenses agreements.

Petter Oskarsson, publisher at Oikos publishing house, Lund continued the afternoon by sharing his experiences on a journals way from toll to open access. *Hereditas*, one of the oldest journals specializing in the study of inheritance, went open access in 2005. Publication charges covered the transition, not only the publication fee covering editing and typesetting etc., but also a submission fee covering the handling of the manuscripts prior to acceptance. The Impact factor rose from 0.596 to 1.269 the first year of Openness, and has since then kept a 1.000 position.

Jörgen Eriksson from Lund University Libraries, Head Office summed up the session by presenting Lund University's latest drive to raise Open Access awareness among the university's researchers. The Fund for Publication Charges has been administrated by the Lund University Head Office since 2009 and serves as an incentive to promote Open Access publishing. Manuscripts submitted for publication to any journal from the following OA publishing houses: BioMed Central, PLoS, Hindawi, Co-Action Publishing, *Hereditas* can have the publication cost covered by the University if the corresponding author is affiliated to Lund University. There has been a sharp increase of LU articles published in these OA journals.

Open Educational Resources

The last session of day 1 was about *Open Educational Resources*. Åsa Forsberg and Ebba Ossiannilsson gave a presentation with the title "Borrowing other's ideas and inspiring the students' learning – a project to spread information about Open Educational Resources". They described the development of OER as two parallel movements where the universities see the strategic potential in using OER to promote their activities while, at the same time, teachers see the potential in sharing their material, getting a good reputation and avoiding unnecessary work by

borrowing resources produced by colleagues.

Tobias Pernler and Anita Eklöf presented a model they had developed to increase the usage of open educational resources at the University of Borås. The aim of the project was to pave the way for a policy decision on the use of OER, to investigate the technical requirements for linking the OER platform to the institutional archive and to create tutorials and arrange courses.

New content in open archives

How do we handle complex digital objects in open archives? In their project, Stefan Andersson and Katharina Nordling have investigated how objects from arts research can be registered in existing archives. Their conclusion is that complex objects can be included in the common institutional archives although some adjustments of the metadata format will be necessary.

"Retro digitizing contemporary, hard-to-find Swedish research publications in the Humanities and Social Sciences" was the title of Jenny Widmark's and Gunilla Wiklund's presentation. They reported a surprisingly positive result in their project which involved making the total research production of eight selected authors freely available online – a total of 59 publications. Only two of the publishers denied permissions to make their material (a total of 3 publications) OA. If only efficient routines are in place, retro digitization projects on a larger scale would also be feasible, Widmark & Wiklund concluded.

Sofia Arvidsson and Urban Andersson shared their experiences with using the SWORD protocol for automated deposits from BioMedCentral to the institutional archive at Gothenburg University, GUPEA. The SWORD protocol makes it possible to set up an automated self archiving process for all publishers and repositories which support SWORD.

Open access through self-archiving

David Lawrence at Linköping University Electronic Press opened the last session with a presentation of the self archiving activities at Linköping University. The amount of parallel published articles had increased rapidly due to a more efficient workflow. It also showed that the citation rate of publications that have been parallel published was higher than that for all Linköping publications, although the causation of this was unclear.

Yvonne Hultman Özek, Aprile Clark and Bo Nilsson described the self archiving situation at the Faculty of Medicine at Lund University. In order to facilitate self archiving the *Bibliofil* tool has been implemented in

the local repository service. Automated E-mails with parallel publishing information are sent out to researchers when publications are submitted. Front Papers with additional info are automatically created on the fly. In order to maintain a high Open Access awareness at the Faculty of Medicine there is a mandatory course on scientific communication for doctoral students. *Open Choice*, *Legal issues* and *Open Access* are some of the topics discussed in the course.

Ingegerd Rabow and Marjatta Siström rounded up the conference with a discussion about the researchers' attitude to Open Access in general and the hprints archive in particular. There is still a widespread

ignorance on some of the basic Open Access issues. DOAJ and Sherpa/Romeo were not known in the focus groups. Neither were the legal aspects of self-archiving, nor the peer-review processes. There is a fear of plagiarism and negative effects on academic qualifications when publishing OA. On the other hand, the availability and the visibility of the research in an Open Access publishing landscape were attractive elements when deciding on publishing methods.

All the presentations are available on:

<http://www.kb.se/aktuellt/utbildningar/2010/Motesplats-Open-Access-2010/>



Mikael Graffner and Kristoffer Holmqvist
Lund University Libraries, Head Office