

## CALL FOR ACTION!!

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### Introduction

Edited closing words from the Swedish conference “Meetingplace Open Access”, Lund, November 24-25 2010 – a gathering of 100 participants from all over Sweden working with institutional repositories and Open Access. The meeting was arranged by the national Swedish cooperation Open Access.se<sup>1</sup> in cooperation with the Library Head Office, Lund University.

### Call for action!!

This conference, which is about to come to an end, can be considered as an executive summary telling about all the work that we together have been doing during the recent years and the results we have achieved so far.

We have together been developing standardized, interoperable institutional repositories. We have been developing and will continue to develop these repositories to encompass not only traditional scholarly publications like articles, dissertations, and theses, but also other kinds of digital objects, such as open educational resources, research data, and, further on, to link publications to research data, information about research projects, research grants, thus enabling our repositories to provide data for research evaluation, resource allocation, bibliometric analysis and ultimately become Current Research Information Systems.

Today we can see – as Alma Swan so convincingly pointed out yesterday<sup>2</sup> – that our repositories add value to our institutions, to our researchers, and to society and the international community at large: increased visibility, increased impact of research, improved decision making and increased transfer of knowledge from our universities to society, small and medium sized enterprises etc. I think we have a job to do in order to bring this to our masters' attention!

Our repositories also add value to the researcher: again increased visibility, increased impact and new possibilities to connect to researchers all over the world.

But our activities also add value to ourselves and our libraries. Due to our activities with repositories,

scholarly communication and open access we have

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.kb.se/openaccess/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kb.se/Dokument/open%20access/Swan%20-%20Lund%20Nov%202010.pdf>

given ourselves new possibilities to position ourselves within our universities, given ourselves new opportunities to develop our competence, given ourselves new career opportunities.

This conference provides a balance of our activities in terms of our lobbying for open access. In the early years (not that long ago), we were the only ones working with these issues, always asking ourselves: “where are the researchers, where are the university managements, where are the research funding agencies?”

Now they are onboard, now they are here! We have managed to bring the Swedish Association of Higher Education onboard, the managements of our universities are onboard, and, due to the outstanding efforts of the Swedish National Library in organizing our cooperation under the umbrella of Open Access.se, we have also brought the research funders to the table. The Swedish Research Council<sup>3</sup>, The Swedish Research Council Formas<sup>4</sup> Riksbankens Jubileumsfond<sup>5</sup> and The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences<sup>6</sup> are all involved in the Open Access.se alongside the Knowledge Foundation<sup>7</sup>. Most of these as well as the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation<sup>8</sup> have issued open access mandates. So now the important players are onboard. What an accomplishment!

Suddenly we are in serious business! Now we have to support the implementation of these mandates, see to that our universities and researchers comply with the mandates. More work, but exiting!

To sum up: We have made substantial progress with parallel publishing and institutional repositories – in short Green Open Access.

We have worked a lot on this and there is so much more to do!

*But...*

For some of us, maybe many of us, the work in promoting and lobbying for open access has not only been motivated to demonstrate added value for our institutions, our researchers and society at large, but

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.vr.se/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.formas.se/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rj.se/english/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.kva.se/en/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.kks.se/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.wallenberg.com/kaw/>

just as much to bring about change in a scholarly publishing system, which is – and there is plenty of evidence for that – unsustainable, too expensive, inefficient, monopolized and biased, and, basically, excluding large parts of the world!

Still some publishers do whatever they can to put up obstacles for Green OA, hiring expensive lobbyists and lawyers to spread misinformation – guess who are paying for that? Yes, right – we are via our big deals! But so far there is no evidence, that Green OA will do the job: to bring about radical change in the dominant scholarly publishing system!

What happens when – and this is what many expect will happen – parallel publishing is adequately comprehensive and when libraries in dire straits are tempted to cancel subscriptions and big deals, and try to rely on open access versions of toll access articles in institutional repositories? Good question, right?

Normally, when demand decreases market mechanisms will have effect on pricing – that is reduced pricing. The only problem here is that in commercial publishing no market mechanism exists. So reduced demand will probably have the opposite effect – increased pricing!

*But...*

There are publishers that are trying to accomplish what we would like to see, namely a publishing system preserving peer-review and quality control and, at the same time, providing the content in open access. These Gold OA publishers are struggling to find new business models in order to reach sustainable operations. These publishers need our support!

They need consolidation in order to achieve critical mass, which in turn will reduce the current article processing fees!

There are organizations, associations and services who are working for the same objectives – to promote open access to quality research, and to support the development of a new publishing system, that will guarantee extensive usage rights, bridge the digital divide, and, in short, serve nations and society at large. They too need our support!

While we are working intensively with Green OA, we are at the same time conserving and supporting the very system that we want to change and we are doing that very efficiently through our consortia. When it comes to supporting Gold OA, we are merely providing lip service!

The transition from one system to another always incurs transition costs. If we want things to change we must invest, and we must convince our masters that we have to invest!

GOLD OA publishers like BioMed Central/Springer Open, PLoS, and Hindawi all have membership programmes, which provide discounts on article processing fees. BioLine<sup>9</sup> has a support programme. SPARC Europe<sup>10</sup> works for Open Access and the recently established Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA<sup>11</sup>) is organizing OA-publishers. They need our support as well.

In the table below you will find an overview of the current support from the Nordic countries to those publishers and organizations:

	BioMed Central		PLoS	Hindawi	BioLine	SPARC Europe	OASPA	DOAJ <sup>12</sup>
	Member	Supporting member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	
<b>Denmark</b>						7		6
<b>DK - DEFF</b>						1		1
<b>Finland</b>		4				16		1
<b>Norway</b>	2	2				4		4
<b>N – ABM-utv.</b>								1
<b>Sweden</b>	3	5	2	1	1	4	1	13
<b>S – Nat.Lib. sponsorship<sup>13</sup></b>								1
<b>Lithuania</b>	1	1						

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.bioline.org.br/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.sparceurope.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.oaspa.org/>

<sup>12</sup> [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org) – being the host of the DOAJ I will not and cannot complain about the Nordic support, but there is room for more!

<sup>13</sup> Open Access.se sponsors the DOAJ

We should do much better and we can do much better to support those who work for the same objectives that we do!

It is very much appreciated, that in Sweden, due to the efforts of the National Library, the two –conflicting – tracks Open Access and the licensing consortium are slowly coming together. In the licensing agreements with commercial publishers clauses about parallel publishing will be included, and, where appropriate, discounts on APCs in hybrid options will be included as well. This is good! But we need to do better.

**I call upon** the national committees in Sweden and in the other Nordic/Baltic countries to establish national membership agreements to BioMed Central, PLoS, Hindawi, BioLine, SPARC Europe, OASPA and other appropriate publishers, organizations and initiatives <sup>14</sup>

During the IFLA satellite meeting: Open Access and the Changing Role of Libraries <sup>15</sup> Leslie Chan, Director Bioline International, launched the 1% idea <sup>16</sup>- that is: if the library consortia allocated the equivalent of 1% of the turnover of their license agreements (big deals) in support of OA-publishers and organizations working for Gold OA, this would indeed make “one heck of a difference”!

It is time to stop paying lip service to Gold OA, it is about time to stop just talking in positive terms about open access journals and monographs, it is about time to invest, and it is about time to actively support those who are trying to implement what we want to happen!!

Next time you sign an invoice from one of the big publishers think about the 1%!!



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<sup>14</sup> Like OAPEN for instance –  
<http://www.oapen.org/xtf/home?brand=oapen>

<sup>15</sup>Monday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Gothenburg -  
[www.kb.se/Dokument/Bibliotek/utbildning/2010/programIFLA2010.pdf](http://www.kb.se/Dokument/Bibliotek/utbildning/2010/programIFLA2010.pdf)

<sup>16</sup>[http://www.kb.se/dokument/Aktuellt/utbildning/ifla%20OA%202010/Chan\\_preIFLA2010.pdf](http://www.kb.se/dokument/Aktuellt/utbildning/ifla%20OA%202010/Chan_preIFLA2010.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Needless to say, but anyway: Lund University Libraries have membership to BioMed Central, PLoS, HIndawi, BioLine, SPARC Europe and OASPA