

News & Notices 2011:2

The Swedish national OpenAccess.se programme expresses concern about Elsevier's recently changed OA-policy

The following statement was approved by the Steering Committee at its meeting on May 23, 2011:

OpenAccess.se Statement: Concern about Elsevier's Open Access Policy

Elsevier recently changed its policy concerning authors' rights to self-archive articles. This change will seriously hinder universities and research funders in their attempts to increase dissemination and availability of research results - open access.

Elsevier has a general policy concerning self-archiving which implies that authors can deposit a copy of an article on a personal web page or in an open archive. However, according to the new policy, Elsevier requires specific agreements with universities or research funders if there is an open access mandate to deposit and disseminate articles in a specific open archive (e.g. PubMed Central or in an institutional repository). These agreements may involve long embargo periods and restrict availability of research results.¹

The national programme OpenAccess.se promotes free access on the Internet to research results produced by Swedish researchers. The Steering Committee of OpenAccess.se is deeply concerned about every action to restrict availability of the scientific output. The Committee is also concerned by the uncertainty Elsevier causes considering an author's right to self-archive.

The Committee's interpretation of Elsevier's new policy is that universities having a mandate to deposit research publications in a specific repository are the only ones affected. The open access mandates of the Swedish research funders are not affected since these mandates do not include directives for systematic distribution in a specific open archive. In this case Elsevier's general policy concerning self-archiving applies.

SPARC, SPARC Europe and COAR have made a joint statement with the purpose to clearly recommend that universities and others do not conclude specific agreements with Elsevier.² The question has been discussed within the Steering Committee of OpenAccess.se and the Committee has agreed upon the following statements:

¹ "Elsevier believes that individual authors should be able to distribute their AAMs for their personal voluntary needs and interests, e.g. posting to their websites or their institution's repository, e-mailing to colleagues. However, our policies differ regarding the systematic aggregation or distribution of AAMs to ensure the sustainability of the journals to which AAMs are submitted. Therefore, deposit in, or posting to, subject-oriented or centralised repositories (such as PubMed Central), or institutional repositories with systematic posting mandates is permitted only under specific agreements between Elsevier and the repository, agency or institution, and only consistent with the Publisher's policies concerning such repositories."
<http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authorsview.authors/postingpolicy>

² <http://www.sparceurope.org/news/public-response-on-behalf-of-sparc-sparc-europe-and-coar-regarding-publishers-self-deposit-policies>

- We strongly object to Elsevier's new policy which requires separate agreements for author's rights and we urge Elsevier to withdraw the new clause.
- We recommend Swedish universities with open access mandates to not conclude separate agreements with Elsevier. Instead, this issue should be transferred to the negotiations of the national license agreements with Elsevier.

The Karolinska Institute has adopted an Open Access Policy

Karolinska Institutet has adopted an Open Access Policy that will take effect on July 1, 2011:

Policy

Karolinska Institutet (KI) defends the independence of science and strives both for recognition of its research and the transmission of research results to a broader public. In keeping with KI's mission to improve human health, an active interaction with the global research community and a constant bi-directional flow of knowledge and ideas are key components of success. Open and free access (Open Access) to the results of KI's research contributes to this exchange of knowledge.

KI encourages its researchers to make their publications to the greatest possible extent freely available taking into account publisher terms and relevant demands of grant-awarding bodies and government authorities.

Through the Association of Higher Education (SUHF), KI has signed the Berlin Declaration and thereby supports the promotion of Open Access.

Adoption

The University Library at KI has been given the task of developing systems, processes and services which facilitate for researchers at KI to efficiently follow the requirements of the grant-awarding bodies as well as the above policy.

In order to increase accessibility to KI's research, the electronic publication of the extensive summary of all doctoral and licentiate theses is also obligatory according to a previous decision of the Board of Education at KI." See also: <http://kib.ki.se/en/oa>

In connection with the policy decision KI now offers an open archive, where KI's researchers and research students can parallel publish their articles. Take a look at this brand new archive: [here](#)

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DOAJ site now available in French

The aim and goal of DOAJ is to disseminate and make research visible and available to the scholarly community. To increase the usage even more DOAJ has now initiated cooperation with partners in different countries to translate the DOAJ site into their languages. The first finished translation has been made by France. Have a look at the DOAJ site in French: <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=home&uiLanguage=fr>

Tremendous growth of gold OA over the past decade

In the following article “The Development of Open Access Journal Publishing from 1993 to 2009”, published June 13 in PLoS ONE, the authors Mikael Laakso, Patrik Welling, Helena Bukvova, Linus Nyman, Bo-Christer Björk and Turid Hedlund have been able to demonstrate the tremendous growth of gold OA over the past decade.

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