CENTRAL OPEN ACCESS ACTIVITIES IN DENMARK
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Background

The interest for Open Access in Denmark has developed quickly within the last couple of years. This article will look at the key events on a national level that has resulted in this interest. Furthermore I will present some of the key areas in the Danish Open Access Committees final recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark.

Timeline

This timeline shows important events in relation to the increasing interest for Open Access in Denmark.

2007
In 2007 the Danish Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation and his European colleagues signed The European Council Conclusions on access to scientific knowledge in the digital age.

2009
The European Commissions sends out a follow up questionnaire to CREST members and observers on the Council conclusions on scientific information in the digital age: Access, dissemination and preservation.

August 2009
The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation establishes the Danish Open Access Committee. The Committees primary task is to investigate how Denmark can implement the European Commissions conclusions and in a second phase implement the necessary changes.

May 2010
The Danish Open Access Committee sends out "Recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark" in a public hearing process.

August – October 2010
The committee discusses the 42 answers and decides to make a revised version of their recommendations in order to reply to some of the views and concerns[1] .

Furthermore the committee is asked to make a suggestion for a national Open Access strategy.

December 2010 - February 2011
The Open Access Committee delivers a suggestion for a national Open Access strategy and the revised version of their recommendations to the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation. The recommendations are coordinated with other activities in the Agency. Furthermore the Agency plans that the first half of 2011 should be used for discussing the recommendations. After 6 months the minister is expected to decide on a national strategy.

March 2011
The Open Access Committee delivers their final recommendations to The Danish Agency for Science and Technology[2] .

24 may 2011
A Workshop on alternative business models for scientific publishing took place at The Royal Library. The workshop had international presentations from Salvatore Mele (CERN), Bo-Christer Björk (Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki), Caroline Sutton (Co-Action Publishing/OASPA), Jana Simniok (Springer), Gunnar Sivertsen (Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education), Barbara Kalamenos (STM) as well as two Danish presentations, breakout sessions and presentations of the results from these sessions. It seems to be accepted that Open Access is here to stay and that a solution is needed for Danish journals. The big questions are what kind of solution(s)? and how it should be financed?

10 June 2011
An Open Access Conference is planned to take place in order to initiate the debate with relevant stakeholders on how to improve the sharing of scientific knowledge.

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[1] Recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark – Extraction of comments from the hearing process. ScieCom info, Vol 6, No 4 (2010) http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/view/4759
All answers are available at: http://www.fi.dk/viden-og-politik/strategier-og-handlingsplaner/open-access/hoeringssvar-open-access

[2] Recommendations for implementation of Open Access in Denmark - Final report from the Open Access Committee. 2011 http://www.fi.dk/viden-og-politik/strategier-og-handlingsplaner/open-access/recommendations-for-implementation-of-open-access-in-denmark-final-report-from-the-open-access-committee.pdf

The Recommendations

In the Open Access Committees final report 16 recommendations are introduced. The recommendations can be grouped into six categories: 1) Politics 2) Repositories, interoperability and dissemination 3) Long term preservation of publications 4) Coordination on national and international level and information 5) Primary research data 6) Danish journals and monographs.

Politics

The first three recommendations concern coordinated Open Access politics on three levels: 1) national 2) research councils and foundations and 3) Universities and other research institutions. The need for an Open Access policy seems evident and necessary for the implementation of a national strategy for Open Access. The turning point will be how strict the national Open Access policy will end up being. Will it be a mandate or a recommendation that the results of public financed research should be made freely available for all?

Repositories, interoperability and dissemination

The Committee recommends that public research grants should recommend that the results of Danish public funded research should be made available in the research institutions' research databases and/or via a common research portal based on the Danish National Research Database. The Committee focuses on green Open Access which makes the necessary infrastructure in terms of repositories and the national research database into central elements.

Long term preservation of publications

The Open Access Committee recommends that a long-term preservation service is established. In Denmark we have the PINDAR archive but the archive needs to be developed further into a fully comprehensive long-term preservation service for the universities' publications in order to secure that digital publications can be read and utilised in perpetuity.

Coordination on national and international level and information

If it is decided to implement the Committee's recommendations there are of course a need for coordination of activities on a national level. At the same time national solutions must live up to national standards whether we talk about technical interoperability or the creation of Open Access mandates. Furthermore it is recommended that an information campaign is carried out with debate and dialogue about Open Access, targeted at research environments in the form of e.g. information material and conferences.

Primary research data

The Committee has a recommendation regarding national planning of Open Access to and long-term preservation of primary research data. It is recommended to gather stakeholders within the field of primary research data in order to secure interdisciplinary collaboration. This collaboration will coordinate how Danish research data are to be archived in order to ensure present and future access.

Danish journals and monographs

The committee recommends that journals and monographs are treated separately and that the relevant stakeholders prepare a proposal on how Danish journals and monographs can make the transition to Open Access.

Conclusions

The European Commissions Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age is a key event in bringing the question of Open Access on a national and political level. There is still a long way but there seems to be light ahead of the tunnel as the Danish Minister of Science has stated: "*Open Access is emerging all over the world and will give opportunities for inspiration and development… Denmark can not stand back and say no thank you. We have to get on the train*"[3] (translated from Danish).

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[3] Gratis artikler / Charlotte Sahl-Madsen, Videnskabsminister. Politikken d. 26. marts 2011