

## OPEN MINDS – AN INTERVIEW WITH MATTIAS COLLIN, PhD, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF CLINICAL SCIENCES, LUND UNIVERSITY

Yvonne Hultman Özek

### **Why did you start advocating OA?**

I was more and more frustrated by high page charges despite giving up the copyright to my own work.

### **What inspired you to take an interest in OA?**

Online discussions- Especially the launch of the PloS family of journals have been a great source of inspiration.

### **What benefits do you see and what obstacles?**

Mostly benefits - my work can be read by anyone anywhere. Some of the "big" OA journals charge too much in my opinion.

### **What has happened as a result of your work?**

I was a bit of an OA pioneer in my research environment, but now I see a general trend with a move towards OA journals.

### **Do you teach your students about OA issues?**

Yes, both on the Bachelor and Master levels.

### **What are your experiences of publishing Open Access?**

Very good experiences in general! I think it is important to make a distinction between any OA journal and OA journal that also try to keep high scientific standards. The web is now getting swamped with journals that publish anything OA if you pay. In my mind that is the dark side of OA. OA is NOT an automatic quality stamp!

### **What do you know about the attitudes of your colleagues?**

It has gone from very sceptical to positive. Some are still reluctant to submit to real OA journals, but most of my colleagues now at least consider paying for OA in other journals.

### **Your reflections on the two roads to OA - gold and/or Green (parallel publishing e.g. in LUP)?" Pros and cons.**

I definitely favor gold, mostly because of visibility. Nevertheless I think systems like LUP serves a purpose. Everything that has been published at our University can potentially be found in one place.

### **What are your views on the present publishing system?**

That is not a small question! I think the OA movement has vitalized the publishing world, but I am looking forward to new initiatives (maybe non-profit) that only serve the needs of the scientific community.

### **What do you think about Elsevier's new proposal?**

I am disappointed that Elsevier makes it more difficult for authors to spread their work. I personally avoid Elsevier's journals if I have the choice.

([http://www.kb.se/openaccess/nyheter/2011/Nej-till-Elsevier-krav-pa-separata-avtal-om-parallellpublicering-/](http://www.kb.se/openaccess/nyheter/2011/Nej-till-Elsevier-krav-pa-separata-avtal-om-parallellpublicering/))

### **What do you think about the PLoS ONE peer review model? Will that be the model for scientific journals in the future?" (another example is "Scientific reports" from Nature Publishing Group)**

(<http://www.plosone.org/static/review.action>)

This is one of my favorite models for publishing! We have submitted many papers to Plos One and every time we have been impressed by the speed and quality of the review process. Reviewers and editors have been focusing on the soundness of the studies and not on timeliness, general interest, impact, and other more or less political reasons for acceptance/rejection. It is amazing to see that Plos One has become one of the largest science journals in just a few years, and that despite the fact that the aim was never to join the "impact game" the journal actually already has a decent impact factor.

### **What do you think will happen in the future?**

Open access will be the standard way of publishing.

### **Any thoughts about Open Data**

I am not sure I am qualified to answer, but I think open data in some areas is a question of democracy. For me it is important and quite unproblematic to make for instance demographic data freely available.

But since we have intellectual property driven economies, we have a long way to go before all kinds of data could be made freely available.

Some important discoveries might not be developed for the benefit of human kind if now one owns it. This might change in the future, but we have a long way to go!



**Mattias Collin** Ph.D. Associate Professor Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University, Sweden



**Yvonne Hultman Özek** Department of Medicine, Library and ICT-services, Lund University, Sweden