

A BRIEF REPORT FROM THE 6TH MUNIN CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING 22-23 NOVEMBER, TROMSØ, NORWAY

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The University of Tromsø Library has since 2006 hosted an annual conference on scientific publishing. The 2011 conference had a special focus on new and additional services made available alongside and connected to the published articles. “Enhancing publications” was the subtitle of the conference.

Cameron Neylon, CTFC, UK: *“I need to publish more and read less! How new platforms will enable you to publish more effectively while reducing information overload”*

The first keynote speaker was Cameron Neylon from Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) in UK. Cameron focused on the increasing pressure on researchers to produce publications. The competition for increasingly scarce resources is bringing this pressure to critical levels, claimed Neylon. At the same time, the web creates new opportunities to communicate, both to other researchers through the sharing of things beyond the traditional journal publication, and to the wider community through lower costs of distribution. This is both a benefit, bringing opportunities for new forms of publication and reducing the costs of sharing research outputs like data, software, and research records, but it is also a burden, as it brings new expectations of the availability of information. The result of these pressures is an explosion of information which challenges our ability to cope.

Neylon discussed how we may shape the way that we communicate, and the way that we discover information. Building filters to help scholars avoid unuseful publications, is not the way to go, said Neylon. This will unavoidably also filter out useful publications. The solution lies in efficient discovery systems, through networks. Networks will help scholars to become aware of important news and new scientific findings.

Martin Rasmussen, Copernicus Publications, Germany: *“Ensuring Availability and Quality of*

Research Data through Open Access and Public Peer-Review”

Another invited keynote speaker was Martin Rasmussen, who is director of Copernicus Publications, located in Göttingen, Germany. Rasmussen talked about the scientific and economic value of research data which is enormous. In order to realize a successful subsequent usage, the scientific community needs efficient access to data. This access has to be reliable and persistent. In addition, the quality of the data has to be proved following standardized work flows. One solution to these preconditions is to apply the techniques of today’s scientific publishing to research data. Besides the access to the data sets through data repositories together with some metadata, the data should undergo a transparent peer-review using a publication platform.

Rasmussen discussed two approaches: On the one hand, the data can be the basis for a research article and undergo a review parallel to the review of the manuscript. Data may preferably be stored in external dedicated data repositories, enabled to long time preservation of big data sets. These data may then be reviewed, and made available as a supplement to the scientific paper. On the other hand, the data itself can be the subject of a publication whose quality is then assured by peers. This is what Copernicus Publications do in their journal Earth System Science Data (ESSD), using an interactive public peer-review process.

Eelco Ferwerda, OAPEN Foundation, the Netherlands: *“Open Access for books - OAPEN pilot projects”*

OAPEN has developed from an initial project, and is now an independent foundation, based in the Netherlands, forming an international network of publishers and research institutions publishing monographs Open Access. OAPEN thus forms a library of freely available books in humanities and social sciences in various European languages. Per date, the OAPEN library includes more than 30 publishers,

and totaling more than 1000 books. A “Directory of Open Access Books” will soon be launched.

The OAPEN model is a hybrid model, meaning that the books may be available both online and in print, or print on demand. And publishers may operate commercially, by selling print copies and charging publication fees from the authors (or their funders). Calculations show, that publishing a book as open access costs approximately half of what it costs to publish a printed book.

OAPEN is dependent on funders to finance the OA publishing of books. OAPEN introduce the model to new areas and new publishers and funders through pilot projects. OAPEN is now hoping to introduce a pilot project in the Nordic countries, in order to include publishers from these countries in the OAPEN network of publishers. Ferwerda hopes, that the time may be right for this model in the Nordic countries, since these countries to a large extent already have a system of funding support for scientific monographs.

And more

Several other speakers gave highly interesting presentations during the two days. All these presentations may be viewed through the videos made available at the conference website:

<http://www.ub.uit.no/MC6>

As Tromsø is located at almost 70 degrees north, the conference took place at the start of the two month polar night period in Tromsø. Unfortunately the weather did not allow participants to enjoy the spectacular northern lights, nor much of the beautiful blue daylight characteristic for this time of the year. Maybe next time.



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