

LIBER CONFERENCE IN TARTU

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The LiBER Annual Conference took place from 27 to 30 June in Tartu. The LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche - Association of European Research Libraries) was founded in 1971. It joins scientific libraries and consists of 41 members. The 41st Annual conference of LIBER was organised in Estonia for the first time. Nearly 340 senior specialists of research libraries from 34 countries gathered in Tartu.

The title of the conference was „Mobilising the knowledge economy for Europe“.

The main subject of the conference was cooperation between research libraries, but the presentations and seminars concerning mobile solutions, cloud services, a digital repository of the data and Open Access received even more attention.

So what is the Open Access? Open Access provides free and unlimited access to research literature. Research articles can be read, copied and printed for free. They can be used only for educational or scientific but not for commercial purposes. As researchers, physicians and other co-authors of the research papers can publish their articles to a broad audience and the libraries can not subscribe to expensive journals any more.

For example, one of the largest publishers of medical books and journals in Europe – Elsevier – provided 1% of their articles for open access in 2005 and 4.5% in 2012.

The publisher Natalia Timiraos from Great Britain introduced the possibilities of BioMed Central Open Access. BioMed Central is a database of peer reviewed journals on science, technology and medicine. BioMed

Central was one of the first publishers who started to publish open access research papers and articles. So they favor complete and free access to research articles. All peer reviewed articles published by the BioMed Central will be freely available online. However, the articles are licensed under Creative Commons. It is also possible to connect to journals through links. The new concept

Threaded Publication was introduced as well. This concept offers the following solution: relevant articles will be added to a particular scientific problem and these articles will be constantly amended. In this way, a specific data set will be created. At present, researchers should register their research in international acknowledged databases, before the research will be published in journals. The research results should be registered at clinicaltrial.com. Mrs. Timiraos introduced an option, where a database consists of both scientific research and the links to the protocols and their results. This new open access database would also allow for the patients to find more information about their conditions and treatments. And last but not least – this option would also help reduce the time-consuming overlaps in research papers.

With her presentation Mrs. Timiraos also attempted to show how Threaded Publication would act in real life. Because it is difficult to check that open access articles and research are used only for educational reasons, a debate on copyright took place. Who can control or guarantee that nobody copies or obtains the articles for illegal purposes? There was also discussion about how this kind of initiative could benefit the scientific communication. However, a common position was not reached.



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