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Will the Swedish Research Bill include support for Open Access?

The Swedish Research Council, The Association of Swedish Higher Education, and the National Library of Sweden have all signed a letter to the Minister for Higher Education and Research, proposing that the Minister include support for Open Access in the forthcoming Research Bill. These three key stakeholders argue that public investments in research would be more cost-efficient if research results were easily accessible for all potential users, both nationally and internationally. Global visibility and Open Access increase the impact of Swedish research. "

Three important issues

First of all, the signatories request that the Research Bill declare a general support for developments leading to OA. They also stress the importance of the Ministry taking a stand on certain central policy issues. Governmental funding agencies should be encouraged to require their grantees to publish their results with Open Access, unless restricted by specific circumstances. The Ministry should give clear support to the continued development of the infrastructure for Open Archives (Institutional Repositories). The public subsidies for Swedish scholarly journals should be used to promote a change to Open Access publishing models.

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Open Access to Nobel Prize awarded work – a pilot project

The Nobel Prize is the world's most prestigious scientific award, highlighting truly groundbreaking research and providing a window to the world of research to the general public.

The pilot project involves the creation of a work-flow and a method for the achievement of free and open access to key publications of Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine at Nobelprize.org. The pilot project will investigate publisher and copyright issues, accessibility to materials from different time periods, etc. Three Nobel Laureates from each Nobel Prize category and from each of three identified time periods will be selected to be included in the pilot project.

The pilot project will not only result in free, world-wide access to some of the 20th century's key scientific publications, but will also draw further attention to Open Access as an alternative way of publishing.

After the pilot project a project plan will be developed for a full scale Open Access project, including key publications of all Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine.

The project starts in the fall of 2008 and will end in early fall 2009. It is funded by the *Swedish National Library* [<http://www.kb.se/hjalp/english/>] and the *Swedish Knowledge Foundation* [<http://www.kks.se/templates/StandardPage.aspx?id=84>] within the framework of the *OpenAccess.se development program* [<http://www.kb.se/english/about/projects/openaccess/>].

Nobel Web [<http://nobelprize.org/>] manages Nobelprize.org, the official web site of the Nobel Foundation. Providing a wealth of background to every Nobel Prize since 1901, the site presents the Nobel Lectures,

biographies, interviews, photos, articles, video clips, press releases, educational games and more information about the Nobel Prize, the Nobel Laureates and their works.

Lund University Libraries' head office [<http://www.lub.lu.se/en>] has experience in working with Open Access publishing, in running an institutional repository and in developing and maintaining library internet services. The library is furthermore in possession of large literature collections whereof much older material will be readily available for digitization, an area where the library already has experience and equipment.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences [http://www.kva.se/KVA_Root/index_eng.asp] and the *Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet* [<http://www.mednobel.ki.se/>], respectively, who manage the nomination- and selection processes of the Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry and physiology or medicine, will secure the quality of the selection of key publications.

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European Conference on Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine and Medicine (ECSP)

The second meeting in the conference series, European Conference on Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine and Medicine (ECSP), 4th to 6th of September 2008, took place at the Rikshospitalet in Oslo Norway. The ECSP series originated at the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, Sweden and was launched for the first time in Lund in 2006. The mission to be relevant to researchers and important for publishers has been retained and ESCP2 provided a forum for debate on two main issues, Open Access - what it is, why it is necessary and how to achieve it - and the assessment of research (bibliometrics, scientometrics). The workshop programme covered many practical aspects, including the use of biomedical databases, writing a scientific article and publishing Open Access journals. The first main session on Open Access, policy making and research was introduced by Dr Noorda; president of the Dutch Research Universities Association and chairman of the European University Associations' steering group on Open Access. View the ECSP2 abstracts, power point presentations, and blog here: <http://www.ub.uio.no/umh/ecspbiomed/program.html>

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