SUPPORT OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING - A DEFF FUNDED PROJECT

Jeannette Ekstrøm

The project had kick off in January 2013, and will continue until the end of October this year. Participating libraries are Aalborg University Library, VIA University College libraries, The University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Science Library and The Technical University Library.

The idea for this project came to life because of the many and increasing demands our researchers are met with. Institutional policies aiming for Open Access publishing, national policies on Open Access Publishing as well as Funder mandates like EU (ERC, FP7, Horizon2020) and the Danish Public Research Councils demanding Open Access are just a few of the requirements a researcher has to take into consideration when deciding where and how to publish the results of their research.

The 5 major Danish Research Councils sent out a press release in June 2012 saying that "*Scientists must publish their research results so that everybody may freely read and benefit from them. That is the aim of a new Open Access policy by Danish public sector foundations and councils*"[1].
In general, this means that researchers funded by these funding organizations will have to do their best to publish open access (with respect to an embargo period), but in order to do so the researchers will need an easy overview of journals, which will give them the right choice of publishing channel, in order to fulfil these demands, since many other criteria also have an influence.

Support Open Access Publishing – in short

The aim of the DEFF funded project has two parts.

The first part is to enrich the international Sherpa/Romeo database operated by the University of Nottingham with copyright information and policies from Danish journals, serials and publishers. In

January 2013, when the project began, only a few Danish journals were visible in the Sherpa/Romeo database.
In Norway a similar project on getting Norwegian journals, serials and publishers added to Sherpa/Romeo has been on the way for a few years now[2]. The Support Open Access Publishing project is in dialogue with Norwegian colleges and eager to learn from their experiences with getting Norwegian publishers to add their copyright policies into Sherpa/Romeo.

The second part of the project is to clarify the possibilities for designing an integrated database of journal publishing channels. The purpose of such a database is to gather journal metadata from several sources and make them searchable in one user interface, very similar to the Swedish project *Journal-Info* which unfortunately was shut down in 2009[3].

What has been done so far

So far only a couple of Danish journals are registered in the Sherpa/Romeo database and the goal for the project is to have at least 25 relevant Danish publications registered with their copyright policies in the Sherpa/Romeo database when the project ends. VIA University College conducted a survey in 2012 of how many of their Danish and Nordic publications allowed access to full text – the survey gathered journals from 2008 and onwards and showed that about 13% of the 492 articles had full text available in their repository[4]. The Support Open Access Publishing project builds on experiences from this project and uses the contacts already available, but the project also

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[1] http://fivu.dk/forskning-og-innovation/rad-og-udvalg/det-frie-forskningsrad/open-access-politik?searchterm=open%20access

[2] http://www.sciecom.org/ojs/index.php/sciecominfo/article/view/4313/3942

[3] http://www.kb.se/dokument/Om/projekt/open_access/Journal_Info_rapport20100112.pdf

[4] http://www.deff.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/dokumenter/DEFF/Afrapporteringer/Afrapportering_til_Deff_paa_projekt_om_Open_Access_december_2012.pdf

uses the knowledge from another Danish research paper called "*Forskningsformidling i danske tidsskrifter – Om muligheden for fri adgang til vitenskapelige artikler*" from 2012[5].

That project was conducted by Birger Larsen (IVA) and Gunnar Sivertsen (NIFU), and they examined the possibility for open access to scientific articles in Danish journals. They conducted a survey by sending out a questionnaire to 109 journals, of which 86 responded. Of the 86 journals 73 of these were published in print, all for a fee. It also showed that there was free access to the electronic versions of 40 of the 86 magazines. An embargo period though applied to 17 of the 40 journals.

Unfortunately the results from the Larsen/Sivertsen project are not visible in the Sherpa/Romeo database, and the idea of the Support Open Access Publishing project is to make sure that such information is visible alongside the copyright policies of other relevant international journals from the Sherpa/Romeo database, hopefully giving the Danish / Nordic researchers useful information from which to make their choice of publication channel from. When this information can be seen side by side with other journals, it is easier for researchers to choose the right journal.

As of now the project group has asked the Danish journals and publishers for copyright information (required by the Sherpa/Romeo service) by use of a questionnaire sent to them by email. Unfortunately it has not been easy to get the publishers to respond. So far 25 out of the about 142 mails sent out have responded and the project group has decided to send out reminders, and then follow up by making phone calls.
The project group has discussed using the Sherpa/Romeo form[6] to fill out the information about the journals already available online in order to make the Danish journals visible.

In regards to the other part of the project, on investigating whether it would be possible/feasible to design an integrated database with basic and advanced journal information, a review and small empirical study has been conducted to see what kind of information is available and which could be useful in decision making.
Use cases have been collected from the participating

libraries and a few interviews with local researchers has been conducted. The project group also used the data and experience from a former DEFF project – www.startpublicering.nu - in which about 25 interviews with researchers from several Danish research institutions/universities were conducted in order to get an overview of their publication strategy and processes, at which was used when designing a basic tutorial on publishing.

The basic idea for a database like this is to locate and integrate the right information the Danish researchers need in order to make a qualified choice about where and how to publish their research. This could include basic journal information, information about the journal´s BFI level (the Danish Bibliographic Research Indicator) or Open Access options, copyright information (from Sherpa/Romeo), rankings like Journal Impact Factor, Pricing, Guide for Authors, a journal's subject classification, as well as "suggested alternatives to journal A, which rejected my manuscript", but also details about peer review processes and/or peer review time, editorial boards etc.

It is work in progress, but so far the project group has defined a long list of the most necessary resources that should be searchable. These resources have been studied for access, availability, technical requirements, copyright etc., and the next step is to specify requirements for a prototype, getting mock ups to illustrate the concept, and then decide whether to take the idea to the next level and apply for funds to develop such a database.

The role of the library is to try and make it easier for their researchers to locate the information they need. If the project succeeds with adding Danish journals and publishers into the Sherpa/Romeo database, as well as coming up with the right arguments for developing a database that collects and cross-searches all relevant information a researcher needs before choosing the right journal, then Danish researchers could save time. We will hopefully be wiser in October.

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[5] http://www.nifu.no/files/2012/11/NIFUrapport2012-23.pdf
[6] http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoupdate.php

Jeannette Ekstrøm, Librarian Technical University of Denmark, DTU Library