

THE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN ACADEMIC PUBLISHING AND OA IN ICELAND: A SHORT OVERVIEW

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In this short overview I will look at the development of academic publishing of Iceland in the last ten years, from the start of the open access movement and to date. The trends that are identified are the number of articles published in open access and the coverage of Icelandic scholarly publications in international databases. The focus is on the period 2003 - 2013. The searches are done in Web of Science, PubMed and Scopus. I will also look at the Big deals in Iceland which are the National access deals, and how they might have affected the interest in open access in Iceland. I will also give an overview of the changes that have taken place such as the law about open access, mandates, repositories and cooperation with other European countries regarding open access.

Research and development in Iceland

Two reports, one from Rannis, The Icelandic Center for Research, on "Research and development in Iceland 2009"¹ and the other one from Norden, NordForsk "International Research Cooperation in the Nordic Countries"² cover the research trends in Iceland as well as the other Nordic countries. According to these reports the number of published research articles in Iceland has grown 900% over fourteen year period from 1994 to 2008. The growth in research publications in the other Nordic countries over the same period is lower or from 110% to 200%. The growth of publications from Iceland is both in national publication and international publications. The growth in the other Nordic countries is greater in international publications than in national publications. Icelandic international cooperation is 75% of the country's publications which is about 25%

higher than international cooperation in the other Nordic nations.³

Articles published from Iceland in foreign journals have increased each year last ten years. The result from a search done in Web of Science revealed 8,127 articles and the same search done in Scopus revealed 8,356 articles. The search in Scopus showed more than two fold increase over the ten years period. In the year 2003 the articles published were 475 and in the year 2012 the articles were 1.235.

Open access to full text articles is still a very small percentage of articles published from Iceland in foreign journals. A search done in PubMed covering ten years period 2002 – 2012 for Iceland revealed that of the 2.165 items indexed only 442 or about 20.4% were in open access. At least open access is slowly growing as shown from the same search in PubMed in table 1.

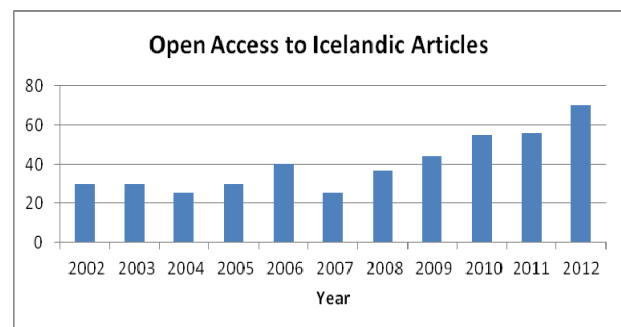


Table 1

This is different regarding articles published in Icelandic health science journals in Icelandic which are all open access. These Icelandic articles are stored in

1. Research and development in Iceland 2009. (2009) Rannis the Icelandic Center for Research, Available at: http://www.rannis.is/files/Vasabók%202009%20ensk_1386807549.pdf
2. International Research Cooperation in the Nordic Countries. (2010) Norden, NordForsk [2]. Available at: http://www.nordforsk.org/_img/bibliometri_1.pdf

3. Research and development in Iceland 2009. (2009) Rannis the Icelandic Center for Research, Available at: http://www.rannis.is/files/Vasabók%202009%20ensk_1386807549.pdf
International Research Cooperation in the Nordic Countries. (2010) Norden, NordForsk [2]. Available at: http://www.nordforsk.org/_img/bibliometri_1.pdf

Hirslan, the subject repository for Landspítalinn. Icelandic publishers made an agreement with the Landspítali Health Science Library to allow all published articles to be hosted and stored in Hirslan and made accessible in open access.

Open Access Repositories

The first repository in Iceland, Hirslan, the Landspítali University Hospital repository, was launched in 2006. The second one, Skemman, the joint repository of the University of Iceland, University of Akureyri, University of Bifröst and the Iceland Academy of the Arts, was started in 2008. The two open-access repositories, Hirslan.is and Skemman.is were established and are maintained by the Landspítali Health Sciences Library and the National and University Library respectively. Skemman.is houses theses and other works for five of Iceland's seven university-level institutions. Iceland needs one repository for all of Iceland. Skemman is not compliant to the standards set by OpenAIRE. All researchers who have received funds from FP7 and do not belong to the health sciences can deposit the article in the OpenAIRE Zenodo Repository hosted by OpenAIRE+. Researchers within the health sciences can deposit their articles in to Hirslan. The Icelandic Center for Research, Rannís, and The National and University Library of Iceland are jointly selecting a system that can be used in Iceland for measuring research output and open access.

An Open Access mandate in Iceland

Open access is acknowledged and endorsed by government statements. There are two OA mandates in Iceland: the funder mandate from the Icelandic Center for Research, Rannís and the mandate from Bifröst University.

In line with the Icelandic government's Policy on the Information Society 2004-7, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and The Science and Technology Policy Council have issued statements that include support of Open Access.

The Science and Technology Council of Iceland signed the Berlin Declaration on the 27th of May 2010.

In March 2012 Bifröst University became the first higher education institution in Iceland to adopt an Open Access mandate. The mandate, or policy depending on definitional preferences, was initiated by the faculty and is a declaration of the faculty member's

preference to publish in Open Access journals and their obligation to store research articles in the university's open repository. The mandate is closely modelled on similar ones passed by for instance Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and by the Harvard Law School.

As of 2013 scientific publications based on projects, funded entirely or partially by the Icelandic Center for Research, Rannís, must be published in open access. This is to ensure that the public has access to results of publicly funded scientific projects in Iceland. This mandate extends to all peer-reviewed articles. Projects that have received grants from Rannís prior to January 2013 are not subject to the requirement of open access publishing, even though Rannís encourages all researchers to publish in open access. Rannís rules for OA are as follows: Rannís encourages scientists to publish their works in journals that are fully released for public access, that is provides immediate OA to all their articles. If a decision is made to publish research findings in journals that are not open access, the Rannís OA mandate may be met by publishing in open searchable, digital repositories along with the publication in a traditional subscription journal. The final manuscript after peer review shall be returned to the repository immediately after the article has been accepted for publication. This applies even if the journal demands a waiting period prior to OA, then the article will be opened automatically when the waiting period expires. Rannís allows an embargo period for up to 12 months after publishing in the journal. Grantees can apply for the funding from Rannís publishing fund, to cover a part of the publication cost.

Open Access projects and initiatives

The Landspítali Health Science Library and the university libraries in Iceland have supported the development of repositories and promoted Open Access for a number of years. There is an informal group from these libraries and universities that has worked on OA for few years on issues such as addressing OA policy issues, development of infrastructure/user services and information to researchers. This group has published articles about OA both in Icelandic journals and SciCom info. It has organized and hosted a number of conferences. This group has maintained the web www.opinnadgangur.is.

Iceland became a member of OPENAire+ EU project in 2011.

The Iceland Consortium and the big deals

In Iceland there is a National consortia for joint subscriptions of libraries in Iceland which is also funded by the Icelandic government.

The Iceland Consortium (IC) was started in 1999 when a license agreement was signed with Encyclopedia Britannica for a nation-wide access in Iceland. Subsequently in 2002 a service agreement between the National and University Library of Iceland and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture was signed listing mutual responsibilities.

The aim of the IC is to secure access to academic and scholarly content for students and staff of academic and research institutions as well as the general public in Iceland.

Participating institutions in the consortium are around 200. Access is truly national as content is available to everyone in Iceland.

The National access has produced a great increase in access to serials but with steady price increase and little flexibility in selecting which journals the National access gets it is not sufficient service to the research community. With all the benefits of the National access it still does not serve all the needs of the research community in Iceland and there is a lack of access to some very important but very expensive journals. The University of Iceland has not agreed on an open access mandate yet.

The lack of interest within the academic community might be that the National access does serve many well and therefore they do not find the need nor interest to support OA. The researchers do not worry about the cost of the National access, it comes mainly from the libraries budgets.

How can libraries make open access work? Can libraries/universities reallocate funds from the big deals to the support of open access publishing?

Conclusion

The publishing pattern of Iceland is similar to other Nordic countries except the growth in local publications has been higher. The publication language is English in international publications and Icelandic in local publications. The coverage of Icelandic scholarly publications in international databases is high. Research in Iceland has increased a great deal in the last ten years. At the same time the cuts in library budgets has been severe in Iceland. From a limited budget the libraries have to fund more/greater access to journals since research output has increased and at the same time the publication of research articles. This situation pushed the libraries to be more efficient by cutting down other services and library staff. Open access is part of modern technology and it will serve the community better with lower publishing cost. In the future it will hopefully replace high cost subscription publishing and provide access to all research articles needed. Libraries can make open access work by reallocating funds from the big deals to the support of open access publishing.



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