

A DIGITIZING PROJECT AND OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING OF AN ESTABLISHED NATIONAL JOURNAL

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Introduction

The aim of the article is to give an overall picture of the digitalisation and Open Access publishing process of the Informaatiotutkimus (Finnish Information Studies) journal. Informaatiotutkimus is a peer-reviewed journal established 1981 in Finland. The journal publishes material in Finnish, Swedish, and in some cases in English. The journal is published as Open Access in four issues annually and as a printed fee-based yearbook in the end of the year.

The journal moved to Open Access publishing in the beginning of 2008. At the same time we started the project to digitise older material in order to provide digital Open Access to this local heritage of scientific discussion in the area. We have now almost completed our project and we are ready to share our experiences with a wider audience.

Profile of the journal

Education and research on Information studies at university level started in 1971 when the first professorship was established at the University of Tampere. Later, departments were established also at the University of Oulu and Åbo Akademi University. The Finnish Association of Information Studies was founded at the end of the 1970's and the journal started a couple of years later. Before 1990 in Finland the discipline and other institutions, as well as the journal, were called Kirjastotiede ja informatiikka (Library Science and Informatics).

As we can see the path to an established scientific discipline followed a natural route. One of the paths is the national scientific society and the peer-reviewed journal. The status of the national journal has changed along the years. Finnish scholars in Information Studies recognised and adopted an international publishing profile already in the 1990's. The role of the national journal has been changing since. There are few established scholars who will find the motivation to publish in a national journal. Most of the writers are junior researchers in their early career and senior scholars who want to share their research results with a wider local audience. The journal is regularly publishing peer-reviewed articles, reviews, dissertation talks and discussions.

The digitalisation project

The first ideas of the digitalisation of old material in the journal were presented at the 25th journal anniversary in 2006. A year later we got funding for the actual digitalisation from the Finnish Library Foundation and for the settlement of IPR contracts with the authors from the Finnish Association of Scientific Publishers. The actual project started with an inventory. There were about 3,000 pages of material from about 200 authors. We had no work-copies of issues from 1981-2001, so we had to work with bound volumes from the library. From 2002 onwards we had pdf-files of articles and also IPR contracts allowing us to publish them digitally.

Preparation of the older material consisted of the following. An inventory of issues along with authors was made. It was possible to download bibliographic data from the national database, but the cataloguing did not cover all material. Our project worker went through all issues and made a database containing information about authors, titles, issues, and pages. This information was used both for IPR contract handling and for exporting digitised issues to the publishing system.

After this inventory, we had basic data in order to identify authors and combine name forms. Translators were handled in the same way as authors. There were some translated articles also. Contracts for publishing were made with each author at article level. Authors could see what articles they had written for the journal and to which they gave permission to digitise and publish in the Open Access journal. The most time consuming phase was to find contact information for these 192 authors. We used the association member registry, national address services, Internet, social networks, and author affiliation at the time of publishing. Finnish authors were contacted by mail with an introductory letter, an agreement of publishing, and a return envelope. Foreign authors were approached by email. We got responses from 138 authors and all were positive. The remaining authors were contacted again, but none of them responded. We decided to publish their material also, because they had not especially denied publication.

After competitive bidding we decided to do the actual digitalisation at Helsinki University Print. For economical reasons we chose 300 dpi and 600 dpi PDF-files with text recognition and text-files from

issues. Issues were scanned manually, because we had to use bound volumes. In the early phases of the project, we wanted to have rich XML-data from the digitalisation, but found soon, that automatic methods were not capable of doing that. It would have been time consuming and very expensive to produce this kind of data. We can continue this development track because we now have good text files to work with.

As a result from the project we got PDF-files and text files of journal issues along with bibliographic and IPR data. The last phase was to split issue PDF's into article level and publish issues in the Open Journals Systems (OJS), administered by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (FFLS). This phase was done by an imported script modified at FFLS. The sScript read our bibliographic data, split PDF's to articles and imported data to OJS. The sScript is based on Articles and Issues XML Plug in of OJS. The import process went smoothly. In cross check we identified only five errors. These dated back to scanning errors. At the time of writing, material from 2002-2007 is waiting to be imported into the journal. This import follows the same basic solutions as described above. The only change is that the material already exists as PDF articles.

Open Access publishing of a national scientific journal

Ideas of web publishing of our journal developed simultaneously with the digitising project. Alternatives considered for digital publishing were the following.

First, we could continue to publish a printed journal four times a year and provide the journal with a year embargo in the Elektra service provided by the Finnish National Library. Second, we could start a fee-based digital journal using the OJS system, and finally we could move to Open Access publishing and publish the journal content also as a fee-based printed yearbook.

After considering all these models along with solely OA digital publishing, we chose the OA publishing with a fee-based printed yearbook. This option was the best option after analysing our workforce and economical resources. Scientific journals get some funding from FFLS, but their funding requires additional financing from a learned society. Our up-to-date business model for publishing consists of subscription fees for the yearbook, annual support from FFLS, and sponsorship from departments of Information Science in Finnish universities.

At the time of writing the *Informaatiotutkimus* journal is available in OA from 1981 to 2001 and the volumes 2002-2007 will be made available shortly. After that *Informaatiotutkimus* will be the first Finnish journal, according to our knowledge, to cover their whole material as Open Access. After this landmark, we will start to develop a graphical lay-out and reader tools along with an optimization of editorial processes. The journal is available at <http://ojs.tsv.fi/index.php/inf/> and later at www.informaatiotutkimus.fi



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