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FROM REPOSITORY MANAGER WORKSHOP TO A DANISH OA NETWORK - A report from the Danish OA day 31March 2009

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Introduction

On the 31st of March the first Danish Open access day was held as the conclusion of the 1-year DEFF[1] project "Public Access to Danish research"[2]. The Open Access day included two separate events; a Repository Manager Network Workshop and an Executive Seminar on Open Access. The first aimed at the need for defining the role of repository managers in Denmark and building a network supporting the common challenges. The second event aimed at university and research managers and people involved in publishing policies. The ambition was firstly to present facts and arguments on Open Access and make a clear case for Open Access and secondly to learn about the advances of Open Access in Norway and Denmark at the level of the ministries and university associations.

This article will focus on the result of the Repository Manager Network Workshop, which included a discovery session where common challenges for Open Access at Danish universities and research institutions were pointed out, as well as tasks to solve and possible solutions were suggested.

The project was lead by Mikael K. Elbæk from the Technical Information Center of Denmark at DTU and had participation from six university libraries, including the libraries of: Aarhus School of Business, Copenhagen Business School, University of Copenhagen, Roskilde University, University of Southern Denmark and the Technical University of Denmark.

Public Access to Danish Research

The project was accepted by DEFF in 2008 and had kick-off on the 16th April 2008. The expected deliveries of the project were:

- To increase the number of OA full text in the participating institutions repositories with 15%
- To create a Danish Open Access wiki
- To create a network and cooperation on Open Access between Danish Universities
- To organise and hold a workshop with at least 30 participants and a presentation by at least one "big" name within Open Access.

The first delivery of a 15% increase of full texts in the repositories from the participating universities is still to be analysed. However there are good indications that the goal will be achieved at least by a number of the participating universities, i.e. Roskilde University did achieve an increase of OA content approx. 67% (622 to 1039 full texts) from April 2008 to end January 2009.

The creation of a Danish Open Access wiki has been achieved and can be found at https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAselvarkivering/WebHome
However keeping the wiki alive is difficult. Good intentions and promises are not always followed up by actions. Lifting the burden of making the wiki interesting and providing it with relevant information has to a large extent been on the shoulders of few rather than the intended many. The experience is useful and will be taken into consideration on future collaborative Open Access projects.

The project has created a small but strong community and network for Open Access. The challenge now is to bring this network into a larger group of interested parties and defining the aims of the network.

The goal of organising an Open Access workshop was also achieved. The initial success criteria was more than reached – having more than one "big name in OA" speaking, i.e. Alma Swan from Key Perspectives Ltd. and Sijbolt Noorda. President of the Board of Universiteit van Amsterdam. Furthermore attracting more than 70 colleagues to the workshop and seminar was very positive. However the Executive Seminar on Open Access aimed specifically at decision makers in universities and research policy making was not as present as we had hoped. It was to a large extend still the usual crowd of librarians and some interested researchers.

[1] Denmark's Electronic Research Library: http://deff.dk/default.aspx?lang=english
[2] Project wiki hosted by DTU Library can be found at: https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAselvarkivering/WebHome

I will now present the results of the Repository Manager Network Workshop.

Repository Manager Network Workshop

The Open Access day started with presentations of the results of the "Public access to Danish research" project, Bill Hubbard enlightened the seminar with the Sherpa experiences building the UK repository network. Finally CBS professor and project manager of Creative Commons Denmark, Thomas Riis, presented Copyrights: complications and solutions in open access/institutional repositories[3].

After the inspiring talks the actual workshop was instigated. During a very intense session, having only 45 minutes, the theme of the work-shop session was presented.

Ene Rammer Nielsen, Roskilde niversity Library

Firstly a joint brainstorm session was made which identified six common challenges for repository managers:

1. Authors motivation
2. Is there a Nordic Social Science Network (for repositories)?
3. How can we get into the authors workflow?
4. Top management support
5. National consensus on copyrights at universities (research publication policies)
6. Establishing a platform for knowledge sharing: a repository manager network for knowledge sharing

Secondly five smaller working groups was created (theme 2 and 6 was merged) each having the task to discuss the themes, point-out the main challenges and if possible suggest solutions and present the results in a poster format. In the following I will try to recapture the results of this work.

Author motivation
The question was how do repository managers get the authors motivated for open access and to self-archive in institutional repositories or subject-based repositories. The problem for many repositories is the fact that many researchers find it onerous adding their research results to the repository and not rewarding enough, or they essentially don't care or know about Open Access. Therefore finding arguments and making the authors understand that could turn the perceived effort into an opportunity for exposing research instead of a burden.

Thus the resulting poster presented the following issues that should be solved or communicated to their researchers:

- Open Access can also give high(er) citation
- Conflicts between IR and other repositories? Publish in both IR and other repositories. At best automatically/seamless.
- Ask/talk to researchers
- PR for Open Access
- Make it easier and faster
- How can we optimize your career – what's in it for me?
- Fame, money and prestige in OA
- Branding the IR
- Get to a broader public via OA
- Work with traditional publishers
- Bind OA to research grants
- Seduce researchers to publish OA

Sigrid Tollefsen, UHR, Norway, Jessica Lindholm, Malmö University College Library and IT-service, Nicolai Pedersen, Aarhus School of Architecture

How can we get into the authors workflow?

The approach of this group was suggesting the mapping of the researcher's scholarly communication workflow. Not actually done on the day – they did however ask three important questions in regards to mapping the researchers workflow:

- When is "it" of interest to the researcher?[4]
- When do we appear?
- How do we create motivation?

[3] All where recorded and can be seen at: https://infoshare.dtv.dk/twiki/bin/view/OAselvarkivering/WorkShop#Repository_manager_netv_rks_work

[4] Where it is when information about open access or the benefits of self-archiving is of interest to the authors.

The last question was approached with three possible answers:

- System user-friendliness – ease of access
- Reaching researcher ownership of Open Access
- Which means that researchers needs to have knowledge about "it" in the first place.

Top management support

One of the big challenges often mentioned by repository managers is the lack of top management support for Open Access. This is often presented as the need for university Open Access policies. This group pointed at getting a parallel support, thus working through a top-down strategy:

- Research policy, at:
  - Faculty level
  - University level
  - National level
  - Funder level

as well as a bottom-up strategy, by:

- Good examples
- Best practice
- Give the researcher a realistic opportunity.

National consensus on copyright at universities (research publication policies)

This group started out with a short mapping on how and where research publication policies are affecting authors. Firstly the Danish universities who have pro-OA policies:

- Technical University of Denmark
- Roskilde University
- Copenhagen Business School (in progress)

Besides the universities other stakeholders where identified (policy text proposals):

- UBVA[5] (academic trade unions) who provides a standard contract for authors based on a "license-to-publish" like contract.
- DEFF promoting a Danish version of the "license to publish" from JISC/SURF
- SPARC author addendum

The group also discussed the pros and cons for establishing a national consensus on copyrights at universities.

Speaking in favour of working for a consensus on copyright is clarity for authors (across institutions) and publishers.

Speaking against the effort is that the amount of "unrest" the policy work will create will not be in equilibrium with the potential improvements.

Establishing a platform for knowledge sharing: a repository manager network for knowledge sharing

This group was agreeing on the need for establishing a Danish network to support the people working with repositories and OA in Denmark. In addition it was discussed what different initiatives should be taken to establish such a network and what activities the network could contain:

- Firstly get a name for the Network – was suggested by Bill Hubbard of Sherpa
- A place where you can ask "naïve" questions without being embarrassed. –> make our lives easier.
- Make an e-mail list or forum
- Some sort of formal organisation
- Use stuff already out there
- There is no platform for knowledge sharing for repository managers in DK, make one!
- Mapping who is working with repositories
- Defining different roles in relation to repositories -> naming them is important
- Create a dynamic web page
- Make the wiki appetizing!

Another question that was raised was "what happens tomorrow?" stating that we all agreed on the need for an OA network, who will take the lead? Bill Hubbard from Sherpa advised not to think or start too big – on the contrary he suggested starting small and making it happen.

Adrian Price, Faculty of Life Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark

Gert Poulsen, CBS Library and member of the Danish Research Library Association (DF) board suggested the creation of a DF-forum. That DF could support with a small contribution and assistance when organising meetings and seminars.

In conclusion of the groups talk it was revealed that DEFF is supporting the creation of a Danish OA network which will kick-off in June 2009.

[5] In Danish: Udvalget til beskyttelse af videnskabeligt arbejde

Conclusion and perspectives

Concluding the Open Access Day it is evident that there is still a lot of work to be done in Denmark to improve access to Danish research. It is also evident that there is great potential in improving the communication and collaboration between Open Access stake-holders and in particular repository managers.

The first step-stone will be the establishment of the Danish OA network. One very important issue is how the participating universities and research institutions will prioritise their efforts in the network. To fully utilise the benefits of a network the active participation of the nodes in the network is essential.

One way of involving people in the OA network could be to state clear and achievable goals. One of the problems of Open Access is not the idea it self, having free and non-restricted access to public research is easy to understand and mostly something people can agree on. But the execution is often perplexed by multiple stakeholders with different needs and agendas. Prioritisation of essential and achievable goals by DEFF and university libraries should be made. If inspiration is needed there is plenty to be found on the project wiki of the DEFF project "Public access to Danish research" which also includes the full reporting from the OA day.

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