

Open Access policies and experiences in Norway, Romania and Moldova

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Abstract: The paper looks at Open Access strategies and resources that promote a new paradigm of scientific communication and provide benefits to science and society. It analyzes the documents that institutionalize Open Access within the University of Bergen, the Transilvania University of Brasov and the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova. Implementing Open Access within the Moldovan-Romanian-Norwegian collaboration will improve dissemination of scientific knowledge in a spirit promoted by international initiatives and declarations. There is a need for increased responsiveness to changes that occur in all spheres of life, particularly in the field of information and communication. Under these circumstances, the role of the library in promoting scientific knowledge through various ways and methods increases enormously. The access to information and information sharing is essential for the successful development of society, and librarians play a crucial role in the promotion of Open Access to digital scientific information.

Key Words: Open Access, OA archives and repositories, Open Archives Initiative, OA Journals, Open Access Week.

1. Introduction

Political actions in support of Open Access contributed to the emergence of a series of declarations: *the Budapest Open Access Initiative* (2002) (Budapest OA initiative 2002); *the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing* (2003) (Bethesda Statement 2003); *the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities* (2003) (Berlin Declaration 2003). The content of these documents defines Open Access as unrestricted online access to scientific literature that the authors want to make public, without remuneration. Free access to scholarly literature assumes that it will be available free on the Internet, and that any user will be able to download, copy, distribute and print it without limitations of financial, legal or technical nature, except

those implied by the access to the Internet. To these important documents we can add the *IFLA Internet Manifesto* (2014) (IFLA 2014) which promotes freedom of access to information without borders, *IFLA Statement on Open Access* (2003) (IFLA 2003) and *IFLA Statement on open access - clarifying IFLA's position and strategy* (2011) (IFLA 2011).

Today the main promoters of Open Access are the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European University Association and various institutions around the world. To ensure Open Access to scientific literature there are two strategies: *self-archiving (institutional repositories)* and *open access journals*. Open Access advantages to authors are obvious: it enables them to spread their scientific publications, increasing both the visibility and the impact of scientific papers.

Open Access publications are digital, online, free of charge, and free of copyright and license restrictions. What makes it possible is the Internet, and the consent of the author or the copyright holder. Open Access maximizes investments in research, develops exposure and use of published research, facilitates research using the available professional literature and increases the overall progress of science (Turcan 2012).

Open Access is fully compatible with *peer review* (expert assessment, reviewing) and all OA initiatives for scientific literature emphasize the review importance. There are two principal *means* for providing Open Access to research articles: *OA archives or repositories* and *OA journals*.

OA archives and repositories do not review but make the contents open and available to everybody. The archives may belong to the institutions like universities and laboratories, or may be discipline-related, such as physics or economics. When archives are made in accordance with the Open Archives Initiative Protocol, they become interoperable and users can find their contents without knowing which archives exist, where they are located or what they contain. Currently there is open-source software for creating and maintaining archives according to the OAI protocol, representing a strong impetus for global use. To do searches using several institutional repositories there are used OpenDOAR directory (2600 digital archives) (OpenDOAR 2016) and ROAR register (4250 digital archives) (ROAR 2016).

OA journals must undergo the reviewing procedure before free access to their content is provided. OA journals bear the expenses for disseminating content and paying the production costs, in order for access to be free for everyone around the world. In some cases, the journals are subsidized by the host universities or professional societies. In other cases, the journals charge a fee for processing the articles accepted for publication, which is to be paid by the author or the author's sponsor (employer, funding agency). OA journals with institutional subsidies tend not to charge fees for processing. The most popular platform for OA journals is DOAJ, Directory of Open Access Journals, which contains 8834 academic journals from 129 countries and published in 50 languages (DOAJ 2016).

The main reason for the universities to create institutional repositories is the increase in visibility and impact of the research carried out. The archives raise the status of faculties, teachers, researchers and the institution as a whole. Everywhere there are universities dealing with the creation of open access archives, and monetary funds are allocated to support publishing models allowing open access, immediate online distribution and access to scientific research results.

Open Access to archives can improve access to research and accelerate the online availability of the scientific articles reviewed. Institutions such as the University of Bergen, Norway, the Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania, and Academy of Economic Studies, Chisinau, Moldova successfully maintain these archives.

Open Access is the most important subject of the Project “Modernization of academic library services in Moldova” funded by the Norwegian Cooperation Programme in Higher Education with Eurasia, developed in partnership between the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, University of Bergen, Norway, Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania and 18 university libraries in Moldova. Implementing Open Access within Moldovan-Romanian-Norwegian collaboration will improve dissemination of scientific knowledge in a spirit promoted by international initiatives and declarations.

2. Open Access: the role of libraries

Libraries encourage the members of university and academic community, local governments, students and the general public to participate in the activities of the *International Open Access Week*, which has been held annually since 2008. OA Week invites academic communities to directly participate in several online sessions and events. The International Open Access Week site has been developed for people to become aware of the most important achievements in the world on Open Access (Open Access Week 2016)

OA Week connects the scientific community with the global impetus for open sharing and promotes policy changes at the local level. Universities, colleges, research institutions, funders, libraries and information centers have used OA Week as a platform for getting messages on Open Access across to people, to issue reports on the social and economic benefits and to provide new funds to support Open Access publication.

The institutions around the world have institutional policies on encouraging or requesting the submission of research findings into open electronic archives. The researchers as authors have multiple opportunities to support Open Access, to expand access to research findings through OA journals, open electronic archives and to manage copyrights.

3. The experience of the University of Bergen

The Norwegian government has for a long time been expressed a desire for more Open Access in Norway. In NOU 14/2008, it was proposed that the Norwegian authorities should order public research institutions and recipients of

public research funds to make research results available to the public. The aim was to promote development in poor countries. In Report No. 30 from Stortinget (2008-2009) it was stated that "In principle, the Government believes that all scientific papers resulting from publicly funded research should be publicly available." This was followed up in Report No. 18 from Stortinget (2012-2013), from the Ministry of Education, which states the following: demand that all scientific articles that are completely or partially publicly funded, either are published or self-archived openly by agreement with the publisher; and encourage institutions, individually or jointly, to establish a fund for the payment of open access publishing fees.

There is little doubt that the funding authorities want more Open Access. The various universities and university colleges have been following this up in different ways. Most institutions have their own repositories, and encourage their staff to publish in those.

Norway's biggest universities - the University of Oslo and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology - have Open Access policies. The Open Access policy at The University of Bergen was adopted at the University board meeting of 15.11.2012 (Open Access in Norway 2016)

All universities in Norway provide support for Open Access publishing, but the University of Bergen has so far had the most extensive scheme. In addition to support publishing in pure Open Access journal the university will also fund Open Access books and publishing in hybrid journals (non-OA journals, where the publisher will allow papers to be bought free and thus freely available also to non-subscribers).

Between October 2013 and November 2015 University of Bergen supported Open Access publishing with NOK 12.5 million. This has resulted in 574 research papers and 4 books. The University Board decided in April 2016 to continue the scheme with support for publishing, with a fixed annual budget of NOK 5.5 million. There will be 100 per cent support to clean open publishing, and 50 percent support for hybrid publication in Level 2 journals. The support shall be granted even in 2019, and re-evaluated before 2020.

Through the University's institutional repository, Bergen Open Research Archive (BORA), master thesis, PhD thesis, copies of research articles, research data, and other types of research material may be made available. (BORA 2016).

Norwegian Open Research Archives (NORA) is a service that procures all the Norwegian institutional repositories and open access journals in Norway. The service allows one to search all at once. The NORA service is also a distribution service that sends data to the Norwegian joint search systems in Europe such as Driver and Deep (DART-Europe E-Theses Portal). NORA is therefore crucial in the spread of Norwegian scientific material.

Open Access policy at The University of Bergen includes the following statements: the University asks all employees to make their research publications available Open Access if possible, either through open research archives or through open publishing. Employees are encouraged to publish their

scientific work with publishers that ensure Open Access, as far as such publishing does not conflict with academic freedom or the University' goal to publish in reputable publishing channels. Students are encouraged to make their master thesis available in BORA as long as this does not come in conflict with publishing the thesis (Open Access in Norway 2016).

The University Library runs a service for Open Access journals, Bergen Open Access Publishing (BOAP). Librarians can offer new and established journals and series hosting and technical support through the platform Open Journal Systems (OJS). The content must be published Open Access with a Creative Commons license.

4. The experience of the University of Brasov

Romania has made some important steps towards Open Access with the first important signal that came from civil society by introducing a document recognized at the national and international levels – “Understanding Open Access” - www.startad.kosson.ro. In April 2012 the Romanian Academy signed the document “Open Science for the 21st century”. Also prestigious institutions within the national system of research and higher education have embraced Open Access, Romania having a very good presence with over 300 journals presented in the Directory of Open Access Journals (Kosson 2016).

The members of academia of Transilvania University are concerned about the development of research and participate in all national and European competitions launched for accessing funds for research. The number of projects won and the university's scientific output is high.

Digital institutional repository at the Transilvania University of Brasov <http://aspekt.unitbv.ro/jspui/> is a product of information technology that the university offers to its academia members for the management and dissemination of digital materials created by the institution and the members of academia (The institutional repository of Transilvania University of Brasov 2016).

This repository is essentially an organizational commitment to the management of the materials produced by the university, their organization, access and distribution as well as long-term preservation. Through Aspekt all the scientific documents created by the university members are collected and distributed. The main objective of the digital repository is to increase the impact of the university's scientific research and its visibility at the global and European scale thereby enhancing the Romanian contribution to the scientific and technological development.

5. The experience of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova

Supporting the initiatives on the international level *eIFL-OA Program Moldova* established in 2008 assists the members of ERM Consortium (Electronic Resources for Moldova) in developing Open Access to scientific information (EIFL-OA Program Moldova 2016) The overall goal of the program is promoting the information content available through OA, as well as developing

open electronic archives and encouraging authors to publish articles in Open Access journals. eIFL-OA Program Moldova advocating the dissemination of global scientific knowledge and human creativity drew up and proposed for approval *the Moldova Library Association Statement on Open Access to Information* (16 October 2009).

To implement Open Access within AESM the Scientific Library has set and achieved the following objectives: Open Access policy development in AESM; AESM Institutional Repository regulation development; special meetings (at the chairs) with AESM authors regarding the electronic publication of documents in the institutional repository, the usage benefits and respecting the law of copyright; the creation of AESM Institutional Repository on the basis of DSpace system. The library developed two important documents to institutionalize OA, which were approved by Decision no. 2/3 of the AESM Senate dated 24 December 2012.

The Institutional Policy of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova on Open Access recognizes the strategic importance of Open Access to information for disseminating scientific knowledge in a spirit promoted by international initiatives and declarations. AESM is interested in promoting a new paradigm of Open Access to provide more benefits to science and society. The researchers' publications will have increased visibility, greater impact and prestige in the scientific community. Open Access will improve dissemination of the findings of the research carried out within AESM.

Therefore, the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova is committed to disseminate the findings of research financed from the budget and projects based on Open Access principles; to encourage researchers to show support for Open Access by publishing their articles in Open Access journals and AESM institutional repository. In the long run, AESM intend to make progress by encouraging grant researchers to publish their papers in accordance with the principles of Open Access paradigm and developing means and ways of assessing the contribution to Open Access achievement in order to maintain quality standards.

The basic strategies are summarized as follows:

1. Implementing Open Access to scientific publications through two complementary models: Self-archiving in AESM institutional repository and publishing AESM journals in international registry DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals).
2. The policy requires that all scientific publications should be developed under the research projects financed from the budget or grants and included in AESM Institutional Repository on the date of publication or, in case of embargo, within six months after publication.
3. Adopting an efficient peer review process to ensure the quality of scientific publications.
4. AESM institutional policy on Open Access will be entered in the form of institutional mandate into ROARMAP (Registry of Open Access

Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies) that authorizes Open Access to the findings of scientific research carried out with public funds.

5. The Scientific Library will enable the Institutional Repository operations and will report annually to the Senate. The Department of Science will monitor the process of ensuring full compliance of policy provisions with the authors' interests.

The second document is *The Regulation on the Organization and Operation of the Repository of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova* which defines the institutional repository, determines the goals and principles of AESM repository creation, governs the relations with the authors of scientific articles, identifies the types of works that are submitted into the Repository, establishes the publications placement order in the repository. The author's moral rights are not alienable and are retained by the author regardless of the publication method. The exclusive right to publication the author exercises by taking voluntary decision on presenting his/her publication on the Internet.

IREK - AESM (Institutional Repository of Economic Knowledge) is available on the library's webpage <http://irek.ase.md>. It is structured around 10 collections including publications of scientific, educational or other character, created at AESM or other organizations that entitled AESM to place them on the Internet. The publishing technology in IREK is using the electronic versions of documents or scanning publications in printed form. Institutional Repository of Economic Knowledge was registered at the beginning of 2016 in The Registry of Open Access Repository Mandates and Policies (ROARMAP).

Scientific Library of AESM registers institutional journals and adds articles in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) <http://doaj.org/> and in the Open Academic Journals Index (OAJI) <http://oaji.net>.

In the Republic of Moldova Open Access promotion activities have intensified to open the minds of all interested parties to a new model of access and dissemination. In public and academic libraries various actions to promote Open Access were performed: at the meetings of the senates, departments, on Information Days, through websites, YouTube videos posting etc. Archives from various countries were presented to promote this model of scientific information organization among researchers. It is a good way to attract the attention of the university senates and local administrations to develop access policies, as well as a great opportunity to inform anyone about the nature and importance of Open Access.

6. Conclusions

Extensive participation means more efficient science. This principle is accepted within the scientific community, even though many researchers are behind with putting it into practice. Also Open Access may encourage and enable society to make a greater commitment to science. Furthermore, Open Access to scientific information helps citizens to exercise their right to access to knowledge produced through public funding. The right to free access to scientific results is not only to the advantage of citizens but also useful to funding institutions.

Public examination of research results will improve the way the funds for research are allocated.

Open Access provides a better return on research sponsored by the academic institution by revealing the research findings to a wider audience. The formation of Open Access supporters among our libraries users will improve the quality of education, will provide effective information support for research and will lead to greater transparency and promotion of authors within the information cyberspace.

The reality in which we exist imposes increased responsiveness to changes that occur in all spheres of life, particularly in the field of information and communication. Under these circumstances, the role of the library in promoting scientific knowledge through various ways and methods increases enormously. Open Access is one of the most progressive movements in the world information community. The access to information and information sharing are essential for the successful development of society, and librarians play a crucial role for the promotion of free access to digital scientific information.

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