

## NEWS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS IN NORWAY

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### Repositories

In the last issue, we foresaw that NORA would start harvesting about 30 new repositories by mid-April. As always, technical problems arose that slowed up progress. The repositories were launched, but OAI-PMH harvesting of metadata was not possible. This has now been corrected, and during August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the number of repositories harvested by NORA increased from 16 to 30. Another 16 institutions are participants in the Bibsys BRAGE project, but have not yet started filling their archives with documents. With NORA harvesting mechanisms now in place, they will be harvested as soon as NORA discovers any documents.

If you are interested in any particular topic, be aware that an advanced search in NORA (<http://www.ub.uio.no/nora/oaister/topic.html?>) can be subscribed to as an RSS-feed. Search results may be limited to documents in a chosen language. Norwegian is the most important language with 9498 documents, but NORA currently has 7160 documents in English and a smaller number of documents in other languages – the one document in Khmer might be the most exotic.

### Growth in content

NORA statistics show a 20 % increase in the number of documents since March this year, from 15 061 on March 28th to 18 377 on August 15th. Roughly half of this comes through growth of content in existing repositories, the other half has come with the 14 newly harvested repositories.

The most common kind of content is Master's theses (7537), followed by reports (2677), student papers (2132) and working papers (1596). After these follows journal articles (1507) and doctoral theses (1429). All numbers refer to data on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Self-archiving

The number of articles archived in NORA repositories has increased by 30 % since March, but there are still a vast number of articles that could have been archived, that are not archived. A report prepared by Sigbjørn Hernes of Lillehammer University College for The Norwegian Association of Higher Education

Institutions (UHR), shows that about 47 % of all scientific articles published by researchers at Norwegian universities and colleges in 2005 and 2006 could have been archived in a final draft post-refereeing version. In addition, 18 % of articles could have been archived in their pre-print version. Between 2 % and 4 % are actually archived in any version, meaning at least 2000 articles are "lost" every year. The full report is available (Norwegian version only) from UHR at

[http://www.uhr.no/documents/Publisering\\_og\\_forlags\\_policy\\_Open\\_Access.pdf](http://www.uhr.no/documents/Publisering_og_forlags_policy_Open_Access.pdf)

Norwegian Creative Commons licenses launched On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Norwegian Creative Commons licenses were launched. Work has been under way for some time; there are a number of legal problems that have to be worked out in order to port licenses from one jurisdiction to another.

The new licenses are found at <http://creativecommons.org/international/no/>

### Reindeer research goes OA

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, *Rangifer* was launched as an OA journal. *Rangifer - Research, Management and Husbandry of Reindeer and other Northern Ungulates* is a Nordic journal issued in English by the Nordic Council for Reindeer Husbandry Research (NOR). NOR is under the auspices of the Nordic Council of Ministers and depends on funds from the member governments (Finland, Norway, Sweden) *Rangifer* has a wide circumpolar readership and authorship, and it is accredited as a level 1 journal in FRIDA, the Norwegian register of scientific journals and publishers. *Rangifer* was first published in 1981 and migrated to OA with the 28<sup>th</sup> volume.

*Rangifer* also decided to go for CC-BY licences, thus qualifying for the SPARC Europe Seal for Open Access Journals. *Rangifer* content is also indexed at the article level in DOAJ

In paper format, *Rangifer* was published twice a year. As a service to both authors and readers, *Rangifer* now publishes articles continuously, as they are ready for publishing, in one issue per year.

The Tromsø University Library hosts *Rangifer* in its

Open Journals System installation.

For more information on *Rangifer*, see <http://www.ub.uit.no/baser/rangifer/index.php>

### **No Article Processing Charges in Norwegian OA journals**

Library student at Oslo University College, Else Dagfrid Bratland, has studied the financing of the Norwegian OA journals for her bachelor's thesis.

She concludes that no journal uses Article Processing Charges, though one journal receive some voluntary author payments and one charges for articles exceeding a certain number of pages.

She found that the journals can be divided in two major groups, institutional and society based, with one private journal being the odd man out. The private journal is dependent upon voluntary work and sponsorship.

Institutional journals are dependent on support, direct and indirect, from their hosting institution for financing. Much support comes in the form of labour, and access to and support from institutional infrastructure.

Society based journals rely on direct funding from the society, and on income from advertising.

While society based journals generally are rather content with their financing, institutional journals see financing as a major problem that needs looking into.

### **The ministry wants advice on OA**

The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research (Kunnskapsdepartementet, KD) has asked the

Norwegian Research Council and The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) for advice on how to promote OA.

UHR has formed a small working group, primarily of research pro-rectors and pro-deans, to investigate the matter and form a recommendation. The Research Council has invited a number of stakeholders to an informal meeting to voice their opinions, as an input to the Research Council's work on a recommendation.

Recommendations from the Research Council and UHR are expected early in 2009.

### **OA conferences and meetings**

The 2nd European Conference on Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine and Medicine takes place in Oslo, September 4<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup>. The main focus of the conference is Open Access in these disciplines. For the full program, see <http://www.ub.uio.no/umh/ecsbiomed/>

The University of Tromsø holds its Munin seminar, an annual seminar on Open Access-related topics, on November 28<sup>th</sup>. This year's seminar has the title *Money talks – New institutional policies in scholarly publishing*, among speakers one could mention Prof. Dr. Urs Gasser from the University of St. Gallen and Harvard Law School, and Prof. Dr. Jane Grimson from Trinity College, Dublin. There is no conference fee for the Munin seminars. For more information, contact Leif Longva, e-mail [Leif.Longva@ub.uit.no](mailto:Leif.Longva@ub.uit.no)

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