

THE – HOPELESS? – QUEST FOR GOLD...

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Here, at the University of Tromsø, we are trying to populate our repository Munin to the best of our ability. This entails both e-mailing authors and locating gold OA articles with licenses that allow us to post them to Munin without asking the author(s).

This we do because we feel it is important to try to show the world around us what comes out of the funding we are given, and also because it seems that more copies could result in a better chance of being read (thus used, thus cited ...). And we believe that it is easier to persuade an author to self-archive in a repository where there are already a number of articles in his field, than asking him to be the first author in an empty and barren repository.

Combining data from the national CRIS Cristin – giving us full information on everything published by anyone associated with our university – and data from DOAJ and from Sherpa has given us lists of OA articles ready to be harvested, and articles in journals allowing self-archiving of post-prints. These last lists have been e-mailed to a total of 725 local authors, asking them to find their post-prints and self-archiving them. Needless to say, we are not overrun with articles, but an occasional self-archived article suddenly turned into a dozen a day for some days. And we believe this also raises awareness of self-archiving itself, lowering the barrier to spontaneous self-archiving at some later point. We have, after all, seen a small but consistent growth of such author-instigated self-archiving over the years.

But: What about the unknown number of articles in hybrid journals, where our authors have paid dearly to make their articles Open Access? Both DOAJ and Sherpa list journals, not articles. Surely, the publishers must have some tool for us to mine the gold? But, alas, this is not how it works. Even Springer, whom I knew to have such a service, had made it impossible to locate this service from their start web page. (At least, it was a task I was unable to do.) Only a bad habit of hoarding useful URLs saved me, and made it possible to identify and download a list of all OA articles in Springer journals. This did not differentiate between Open Choice articles and articles in Springer Open journals, but as the latter ones seem to be few and far between at this time, it did not pose a problem. My collection held no links to similar services for other publishers, and after spending some hours going through Sherpa's list of publishers offering OA options trying to locate such services I conclude that either there are none, or they are actively hidden.

I know for certain that we must have paid for some kind of OA option with other publishers, but as things stand we are unable to show these articles to the world through our repository.

We should note, and make publishers note, it is **our** gold they hoard in **their** vaults!



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