On The Norwegian Road to Open Access

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Who are we?

• UiT The Arctic University of Norway
• An all-round university
  – Established by parliament in 1968
  – Started operations in the early 1970’s
  – Have merged with two university colleges, about to merge with two more
  – 11 800 students, 2 900 employees
• The world’s northernmost university
The Norwegian OA landscape

- 8 universities
- 8 specialized university institutions
- 20 university colleges
- 9 private colleges
- 50+ research institutes
- 4 regional health authorities

- 40 of the HEIs have an IR
- 7 research institutes have IRs

- The Norwegian Research Council has an OA requirement
- Govt. white paper demands OA for all publicly funded research
- An increasing number of institutions have local OA policies
Paths to OA: Green

- Research Council and institutional policies do not prefer Gold over Green, they are equally good for satisfying OA requirements
- All institutions with an IR encourage green OA
  - Many have a local policy or mandate
- Low success rate … (2014 numbers)
  - In the HEI sector, about 11 per cent green OA
- Growing, but (painfully) slowly
Paths to OA: Gold

• Supporting local OA publishing
  – Publishing infrastructures at five larger institutions
    • Based on OJS
    • For «local» journals
      – E.g. Septentrio Academic Publishing in Tromsø
  – See a Nordic list

• Supporting publishing in OA journals in two ways
  – Teaching researchers to budget for APCs in project budgets
  – Paying for APCs when there is no external funding available
    -> Publication funds
Norwegian OA publication funds

- 16 HEIs have OA publication funds (all universities have them)
- The first ones established in 2010
  - UiT established one early in 2011
- Govt. white paper 2013 pointed to the UiT fund and recommended that other HEIs followed the example
  - Most funds established post white paper
- In general similar rules and requirements
  - Corresponding author affiliation
  - Journal registered in DOAJ
  - Journal accredited in the Norwegian HEI financing system
Accreditation

- Norwegian HEIs, RPOs and Health Institutions receive part of their funding based on publishing in accredited journals or book series
- Accreditation based on having an acceptable quality assurance system/process in place
- Accreditation or not decided by a committee based in The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR)
  - A secretariat at Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD)
  - Maintain a register of accredited channels (a “white list”)
    - [https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/Forside.action?request_locale=en](https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/Forside.action?request_locale=en)
    - Currently 23,000+ journals accredited
    - Top-level journals accredited at level 2 (ordinary at level 1)
      - More funding for publishing in level 2 journals – factor 3
- Structural problem:
  - High impact journals (“level 2”) that are to be targeted are only 1 per cent of OA journals, but 10 per cent of TA journals
A new journal?

“Perhaps the worst plight of a vessel is to be caught in a gale on a lee shore. In this connection the following ... rules should be observed:
Never allow your vessel to be found in such a predicament.”

LF Callingham: Seamanship: Jottings for the Young Sailor

- The same goes for OA journals. First steps with a new OA journal:
  - (Get an ISSN)
  - Apply for DOAJ listing
  - Apply for accreditation in the Norwegian system

- OA journals which miss one of these two signs of quality, will not receive any Norwegian manuscripts or APC income
- A surprising lack of awareness about this, also among major publishers
Norwegian Research Council (NRC) and OA

- Contract clause requiring OA
- Sharpened policy: Can withhold project funds if OA requirements haven’t been met
  - Expresses stronger willingness to take off the silk gloves
  - Increased their capability to follow-up
- APCs have been allowed costs
- STIM OA: New APC funding scheme 2014–2019
  - 8 mill NOK (≈900 000 EUR) was set aside to refund up to 50 per cent of institutions’ APC costs
  - Not tied to NRC projects
  - Journals must be accredited in the financing system, and registered in DOAJ – no hybrids!
  - HEIs will only get a refund if they have an OA fund! (No fund, no refund)
  - Sufficient funds to cover 50 per cent will be set aside for the duration of the scheme
• Institutions received about 3 mill NOK for 2014
  – Indicates spending of NOK 6 mill
  – Strong growth expected
    • Funds are new
    • New funds expected, and existing ones will cover larger parts of the sector
    • Growth in use of gold OA
• OA costs expected to be included in overheads from 2020 on, as subscriptions are today
  – The NRC scheme to help transitioning to Gold OA
• NRC will continue to support both green and gold OA, without having a preference for the one or the other
  – But no hybrids!
Do OA publication funds work?
The UiT fund started 2011 …

Development of Open Access publication by
UiT The Arctic University of Norway 2004–2014
Share of all published articles
The development of the UiT fund

Accumulated expenditure per year

Month

Amount in NOK
More about Open Access:

• The 10th Munin conference
  – [http://site.uit.no/muninconf/](http://site.uit.no/muninconf/)
  – 30th November–1st December 2015 at UiT campus
• The annual conference on scholarly publishing at the University Library of Tromsø – usually with an OA angle
• In English
• This year’s keynotes:
  – Randy Schekman, a Nobel Prize-winner in Physiology or Medicine 2013
  – Stuart M. Shieber, the faculty director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication
  – Sabine Hossenfelder, assistant professor for high energy physics at Nordita in Stockholm
  – Peter Suber, Director of the Harvard Office for Scholarly Communication, Director of the Harvard Open Access Project
• [https://www.facebook.com/TheMuninConference](https://www.facebook.com/TheMuninConference)
• @MuninConf
If you have questions, you will often find the answer in the library.

So, feel free to contact us!

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