

Open Access Policy in Denmark



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Contents



- Introduction
 - What does Open Access mean in Denmark ?
... and who are the players ?
- Open Access Policies
 - View points from major players
- Open Access in practice
 - A good story
- Conclusions & outlook

Introduction

What does Open Access mean in Denmark ?

- Openness is generally seen as a benefit: “Open” trend
- Open Access = “Free access to online scientific literature”
- Problems ? Copyrights, journal economy, freedom of research (!!)
- Who are (or should be) the players in Denmark ?
 - Higher education and research institutions: Ongoing mergers
 - Governmental and administrative institutions
 - Publishers: Several minor journal publishing companies
 - Libraries: Recent merges ⇒ “research libraries” + many more
 - Research foundations: Both public and private are *potential* players
- Many do not have explicit or clear (open) opinion !
 - Berlin declaration (2003) → Aarhus University
 - “EC petition” (2005) → Aarhus University, 50% Sweden
 - FRPAA petition (2007) → Aarhus University, Roskilde University



Danish Open Access policies



... and the lack thereof

- Academic institutions
 - Copenhagen University vs. the Danish Technical University
- Libraries
 - The Royal Library (Copenhagen University)
- Publishers
- Governmental and national institutions

Academic institutions

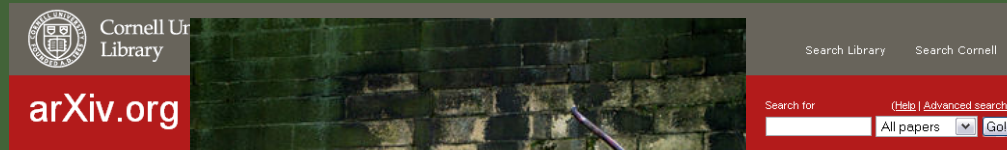
In practice Open Access have been used for 17 yrs

But policy is a different thing...

Examples...



The Danish



- Fou

- Has

-

Cope

- Old

- Cor

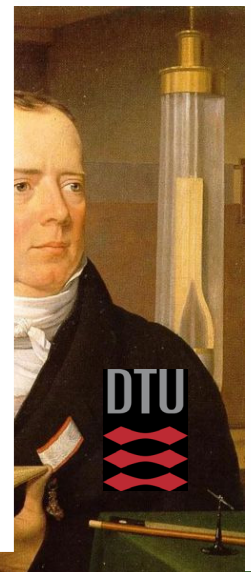
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- Problem (?):

“Policy for DTU’s archiving and publication of DTU researchers works”:

“In the light of ... DTU’s strategy plans and research policy, this policy must secure DTU the right to provide open access to DTU’s research results through electronic publication in ORBIT, including open access for DTU researchers that can use the published material for teaching and outreach. Only under certain special circumstances may DTU’s researchers hand exclusive rights to a publisher after approval by an institute manager. This policy secures one of DTU’s prime tasks: Dissemination of knowledge.”

• Nonlinear Sciences (n) includes (see detailed description): Adaptation and Self-Organizing Systems; Cellular Automata and Lattice Gases; Chaotic Dynamics; Exactly Solvable ...

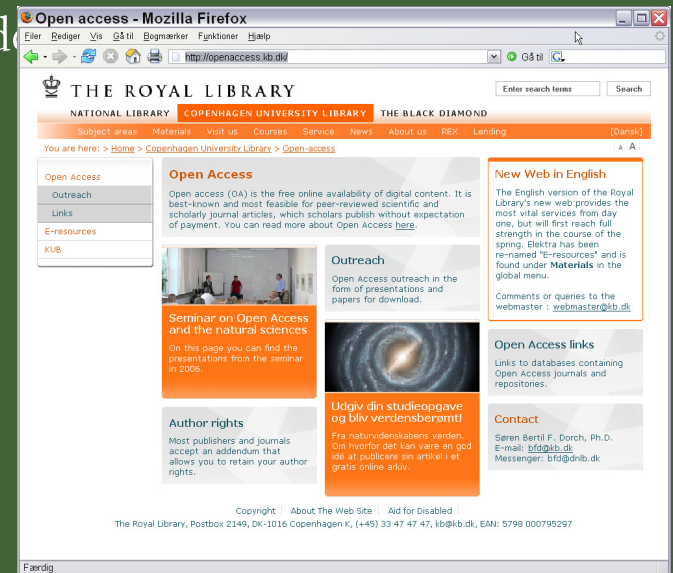


Libraries

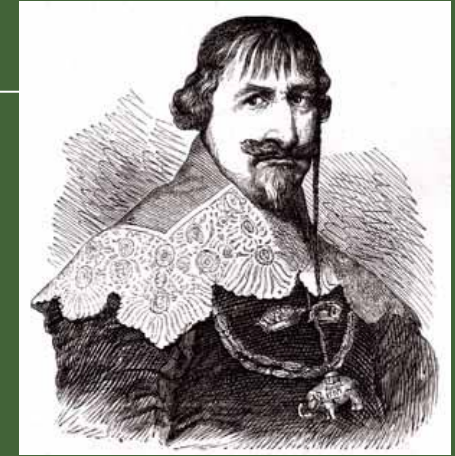
Libraries love Open Access (you know why)...

Example: The Royal Library (1482)

- Merged (again) 2005
 - Copenhagen University Library and the National Library
- Open Access track record
 - Member of SPARC Europe + LIBER (president)
 - Signed Berlin Declaration 2005
 - Active in public Press 2005—
 - Coordinated Open Access 2006—
 - Open Access seminars and outreach
 - Open Access website 2007
 - Plans to build e-print archive for humanities
- Open Access policy
 - To work towards goals in Berlin Declaration
 - To play an active part in providing Open Access



National institutions



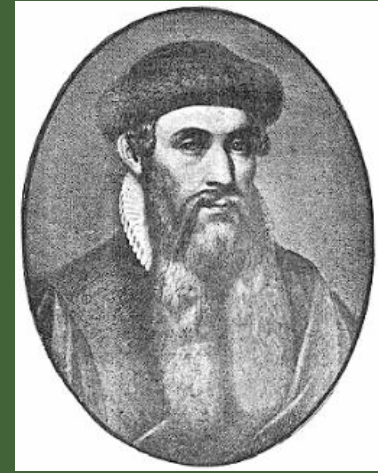
Active players...

- Ministry of Culture
 - The Danish Library Agency (Biblioteksstyrelsen)
 - Shares the libraries views on Open Access
 - Denmark's Electronic Research Library (DEFF)
 - Have several projects that pushes Open Access
 - Nordic and International collaboration (e.g. Knowledge Exchange)
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation
 - The Danish Rectors' Conference (Rektorkollegiet)
 - Plans to sign Berlin Declaration on behalf of all universities
- National funding agencies
 - Both ministries harbor national research funding agencies
 - No policy statement yet: Waiting for international /EU policies
- Private funding agencies
 - Carlsberg Foundation, Villum Kann Rasmussen Foundation ...
 - "Talk" a lot to the national agencies: They are in sync

Publishers

Several small scientific publishers (mainly arts and humanities and social science)

- Open Access
 - Not wide spread among scientific publishers
 - Sometimes moderate Open Access exists
 - But mostly for Newspapers and popular science journals
- Problems identified
 1. Economy: Who should pay ?
 2. Small national journals are cancelled first by libraries
 3. Lack of control: Potentially no quality control on Op
- The Press
 - Are potentially not an impartial player
 - Provide partially free access to news articles
 - Often confuse Open Access with “Golden Open Acc



Open Access in practice

Researchers do publish as Open Access, if the technical infrastructure is available, even if a policy is not !

- A good story ☺

“Student publishes his student report as Open Access and instantly becomes world famous”

- Setting: The Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen University, 2005
- Context: A student writes a report on Fermi’s Paradox for the course “Planetary physics 2”
- Outline: The student is encouraged to write an article on the subject and his paper is accepted for publication in the *International Journ. of Astrobiology* (CUP) on December 28th 2006 (after a couple of months)
- Action: The student submits a preprint of the paper in the astro-ph section of arXiv.org on January 7th 2007 after being endorsed locally...
- A week later (after the email/RSS news update) the student is interviewed for BBC Radio Five, New Scientist and The Guardian + several Danish newspapers
- Status: The student has now appeared on Danish TV and radio, and his paper has been debated on numerous websites internationally (incl. a Star Trek actor blog)
- The paper has not yet appeared in print (and is not yet on the forthcoming list)



Conclusions & outlook



A slightly optimistic view point...

- Policy efforts are quite scattered now
 - But academic players will soon find common ground through e.g. the Danish Rectors' Conference initiatives
 - Most universities could provide Open Access through IRs (but do not exploit the existing full text capabilities)
 - Research libraries (and their organizations) will begin to play a more active rôle by no longer being a “silent partner” to the academic institutions, researchers and publishers
 - Researchers will increasingly use Open Access, because it works for them !
- Funding agencies ??
 - Will first recommend and then later demand Open Access to the research that they fund (following international trends)
- Other open questions
 - Will the government discover Open Access ?
 - Will we have a situation as in Norway (canceling large journal packages) ?

Some references



- Open Access at Copenhagen University, <http://openaccess.kb.dk>
- The Danish Library Agency, <http://www.biblioteksstyrelsen.dk>
- The Danish Rectors' Conference, <http://www.rks.dk>
- Denmark's Electronic Research Library, <http://www.deff.dk>