Open Access, academic libraries and the future of scholarly publishing

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Overview

- Background on research project

- Open Access: a long desire for transition

- Open Access targets in Europe

- OA2020 – setting a new horizon?

- Counter-narratives and inner resistances

- What about libraries?

- Discussion & concluding remarks

Background on research project

Doctoral research project in the field of Science and Technology Studies (STS) at the University of Vienna, Austria (Supervisor: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ulrike Felt)

"Of hopes, villains and Trojan horses – Open Access academic publishing and its battlefields" (working title)

Research questions:

How is Open Access academic publishing re-ordering the scientific system?

➢ What expectations towards the scientific system are expressed through the shift to Open Access academic publishing?

➢ How is Open Access imagined by different actors?

➢ How does Open Access affect actual publication practices?

Full research proposal is available online in e-LIS repository at http://hdl.handle.net/10760/29265

Open Access: a long desire for transition

Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) declaration:

"An old tradition and a new technology have converged to make possible an unprecedented public good. The old tradition is the willingness of scientists and scholars to publish the fruits of their research in scholarly journals without payment, for the sake of inquiry and knowledge. The new technology is the internet. The public good they make possible is the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed journal literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds." - Budapest Open Access Initiative, February 2002

Open Access: a long desire for transition (cont.)

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"While we endorse the two strategies just outlined [self-archiving and open access journals], we also encourage experimentation with further ways <u>to make the transition from the present methods of dissemination to open access</u>. Flexibility, experimentation, and adaptation to local circumstances are the best ways to assure that progress in diverse settings will be rapid, secure, and long-lived." - ibid.

Open Access: a long-desire for transition (cont.)

BOAI10 recommendations: setting the default to open

"In this statement, we reaffirm the ends and means of the original BOAI, and recommit ourselves to make progress. But in addition, we specifically set the new goal that <u>within the next ten years, OA will become the default method for distributing new peer-reviewed research in every field and country</u>." - Budapest Open Access Initiative, September 2012

Open Access: a long-desire for transition (cont.)

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Science Europe: "Principles for the Transition to Open Access to Research Publications" (April 2013)

Global Research Council: "Action Plan towards Open Access to Publications" (May 2013)

European University Association (EUA): "EUA Roadmap on Open Access to Research Publications" (February 2016)

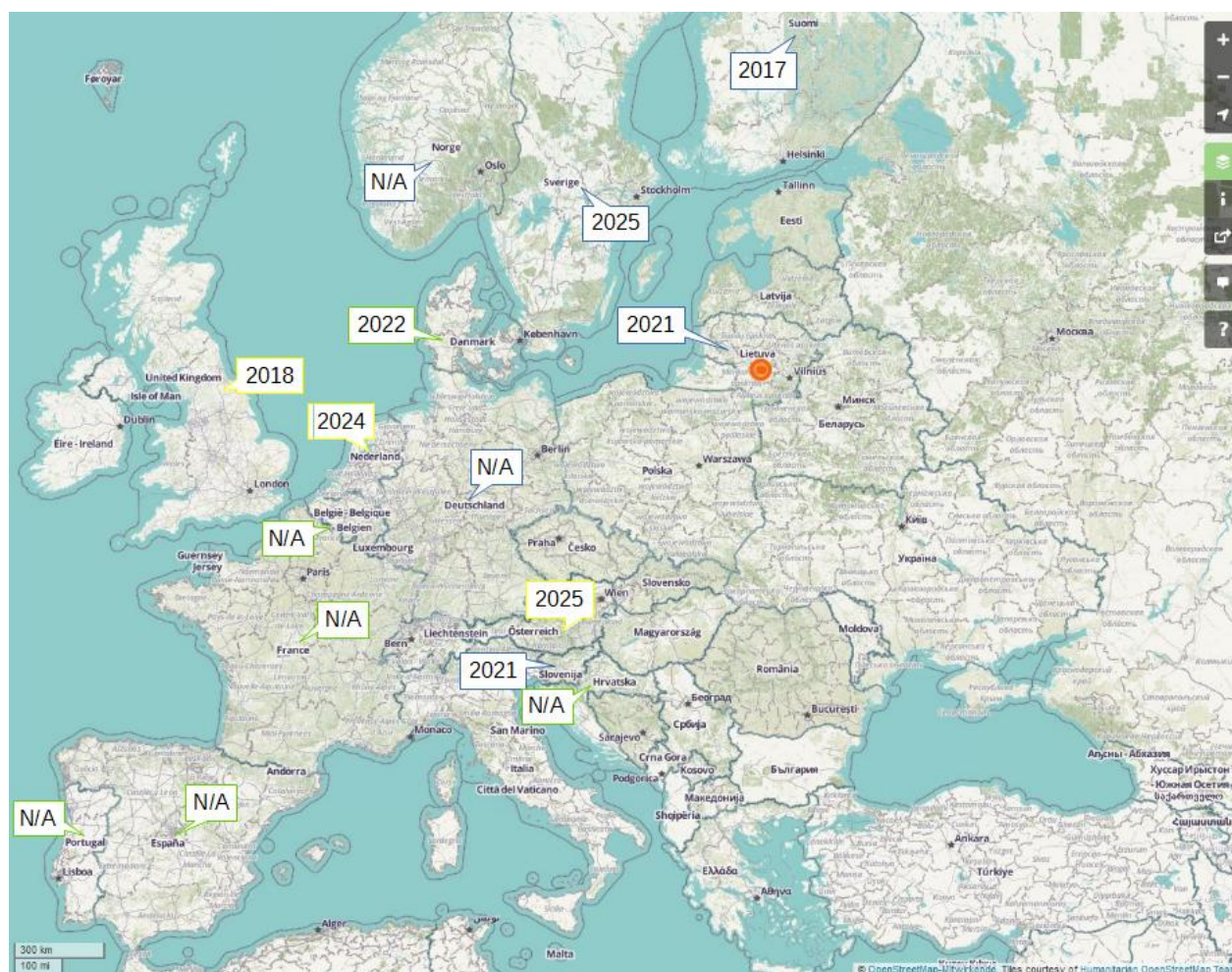# Open Access targets in Europe – *a provisional map*

Image source: openstreetmap.org licensed under Open Database License (ODbL)

Expected target year for full Open Access, if any

Expressed preference for Green Open Access

Expressed preference for Gold Open Access

Building on Open Access / Science roadmaps, strategies, recommendations and/or policies of respective Research Councils.

See also:
Kita, J.-C., Duchange, N., & Ponsati, A. (2016). *Open Access Publishing Policies in Science Europe Member Organisations: Key Results from Science Europe and Global Research Council Surveys.* D/2016/13.324/8.

OA2020 – setting a new horizon?

open access
2020

March 2016

The problem
"The transition towards open access has been a lengthy process thus far, resulting in a lack of clarity for all parties involved and increased costs." (p. 30)

The solution
"[To] Reinforce and align open access strategies and policies at the national level and facilitate their coordination among all Member States. <...>
[To] Formulate a clear pan-European target: from 2020 all new publications are available through open access from the date of publication." (ibid.)

Amsterdam Call for Action on Open Science

nlEU 2016

April 2016

May 2016

Council of the European Union

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	8791/16 RECH 133 TELECOM 74
Subject:	The transition towards an Open Science system - Council conclusions (adopted on 27/05/2016)

Counter-narratives and inner resistances
Responses to an APC-based publishing model

"The EMS [European Mathematical Society] endorses the general principle of allowing free reading access to scientific results and declares that in all circumstances, the publishing of an article should remain independent of the economic situation of its authors. We therefore do not support any publishing models where the author is required to pay charges (APC)." - EMS Newsletter, June 2013

"The reasons this transformation cannot work globally are many, but locally it can be made to work, for a while, by fiat <...> The very next day the system would destabilize, with cash-strapped institutions cancelling their "memberships" to journals that their users needed to use but in which their authors published little, preferring instead to pay for publishing by the piece for the few articles they publish in them." - Stevan Harnad, Netherlands Boycotting Elsevier To Sustain Bloat, July 2015

"Authors will be unable to publish once limited funds have been exhausted. Such a system will need to support researchers who cannot pay APCs – to avoid further skewing a scholarly publishing system that is already biased against the research undertaken in certain disciplines and countries." - Joint COAR-UNESCO Statement on Open Access, May 2016

What about libraries? - *Open Access negotiations*

"All means [of reaching an Open Access transition; i.e. offsetting agreements, APC-based institutional publishing deals, hybrid business models] should be utilised and tested complementary, under suitable framework conditions. Currently we do not know yet about their effects on the transition process in practice." - AG Open-Access-Gold der Allianz der deutschen Wissenschaftsorganisationen, Empfehlungen zur Open-Access-Transformation, March 2016, p. 6 [own translation]

"By negotiating APC pricing via institutional deals with publishers, libraries risk perpetuating the current situation in which publishers avoid competing for funds on the basis of author choice. While such discounts may be beneficial in the short term and may create a transitional path from subscriptions to APCs, the concept of a list-price APC determined through marketplace competition risks obviation." - University of California Libraries, Pay It Forward (final report), July 2016, p. 128

What about libraries? - *Defining own roles*

"Most actors in the scientific enterprise support Open Access, but in the cacophony of divergent interests it is not clear what kind of Open Access do they mean. <...> Why would you still need librarians if the entire scientific knowledge is available in a few dozens of mega-journals and subject-specific or commercial repositories?" - Michael Hagner, Zur Sache des Buches, 2015, p. 121 [own translation]

Developing / maintaining alternative publishing venues and supporting infrastructure:

➢ Community-driven crowdfunding and selection of titles, Library Partnership Subsidies, e.g. Knowledge Unlatched and Open Library of Humanities

➢ Reference lists and guidance materials, e.g. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)

➢ Advocacy work, e.g. on copyright reform by library organisations such as LIBER (Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries)

Discussion & concluding remarks

➢ Transition from a "pay-to-read" to "pay-to-say" principle may induce new inequalities and/or reinforce dominant power relations

➢ Systemic risks due to further centralisation of funding and revenue streams

➢ Expensive "gratis" Open Access does not guarantee broad re-use rights ("libre" OA)

➢ Equating Hybrid subscription journals with Gold Open Access contributes to misunderstandings and makes it harder to understand/communicate Open Access strategies

➢ One-size-fits-all vs divergent developments in different research fields and communities

➢ Need to consider personal, socio-economic, political, geographical etc. situations of different scholars and research institutions – leading back to diversification of publishing models

➢ Broader issues such as incentives in academic reward structures and far-reaching effects of the digital transformation need to be taken into account

➢ Keep an "open" mind: There are always many possible routes than just a one-way road

Thank you for your attention!
Dėkoju už dėmesį!

Comments

Kommentarai

Critique?
Kritika?

Questions
Klausimai

Feedback
Atsiliepimai

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