

Open Access – a challenge for the scientific community

The Berlin declaration recommended that results from publicly funded research should be available to anyone through Open Access (OA). Many national funding agencies have adopted the principle, but what are the practical implications for authors and publishers? We asked a researcher, a funding agency and a publisher.

THE RESEARCHER



Professor **Annika Nordin**, Programme Director of Future Forest, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

I am very positive about the development of an increasing number of OA journals, as long as the peer-review process is rigorous. We all gain from high quality research being freely available to everyone!

Researchers are now much more positive about publishing in OA journals. I have a feeling that journals that have become OA attract interest from researchers, even if they are not very high impact. Thus low-impact journals may gain from going OA early on in this development.

However, many high impact journals are not OA, and researchers will not hesitate to publish in such non-OA-journals.

"Researchers who receive funding from Formas from 2010 onwards must guarantee that their future research findings will be available to all (Open Access) within six months of being published. The Open Access regulations currently only apply to scientifically peer-reviewed text published in scientific journals and conference reports. The regulations do not currently apply to monographs or book chapters. Research results published with Open Access on the Internet are available for anyone to read and download. Researchers may either archive previously published articles in large public access databases or they can publish directly in journals on the Internet that practice Open Access."

Formas Handbook, p. 12, 4.3.1 Open Access

THE FUNDING AGENCY



Jonas Förare, Senior Information Officer, Formas (The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning)

We expect that researchers will identify the most suitable OA option available for them for their future publications, and that they will include the costs involved in their applications.

Formas's requirements can be found in our handbook for applications (see below). We do not detail the OA options other than to the level of publicly available databases or journals that provide Internet publication within six months.

The rules were imposed during this year and haven't been subject to questions or discussion. We have so far not seen any shifts in the publication profiles from the supported projects.

THE PUBLISHER



Victoria Babbit, Regional Publishing Manager, Taylor & Francis Group (which publishes Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research)

The new requirements introduced in 2010 by the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) demand that any publications produced from research funded by them must be made OA within six months of publication. This presents a challenge to researchers who feel pressure to publish in well-established, ISI listed journals such as SJFR, most of which are not OA. While this could mean a slight drop in manuscript submissions from authors receiving this type of funding, the fact remains that SJFR is a well-respected journal and authors ultimately will submit their work to journals that have an international reach and increasingly, a high Impact Factor.

Taylor & Francis, along with most academic publishers, is committed to finding solutions for authors publishing in our journals who are required to publish their work with OA. Recently we introduced iOpenAccess. This program offers the opportunity to publish an OA



article for a fee. The 2010 prices were \$3,250/£1,725/€1,900.

The challenge for many authors comes from the fact that while some funding agencies are requiring that scholarship be published via OA, they do not pay the fees commonly charged by publishers for this service. We will continue to re-examine our OA policy to make certain we are meeting the needs of the academic community while also sustaining the viability of our journals.

Most publishers do offer the possibility of posting manuscripts on personal websites and in university archives. An author may post their 'pre-print' version (i.e. the version that is submitted to the journal) on their website. In addition, an author may also post their 'post-print' version (i.e. the version that has incorporated all of the revisions and is sent to the typesetters) online, but not the PDF produced by the publisher. However, there is a quarantine period of 18 months before the author is allowed to publish this version.

Taylor & Francis' policy concerning how authors may share their work post publication can be found here:

www.tandf.co.uk/journals/pdf/copyright-author-rights-society.pdf



Address to Frances & Taylor iOpenAccess:

<http://journalauthors.tandf.co.uk/beyondpublication/iopenaccess.asp>

The iOpenAccess option currently covers over 300 journals issued by Taylor & Francis. Most publishers have similar options.

Gender research in forestry



Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research has published a supplement named: "Gender research in forestry"

The issue presents eight selected papers from the Second Conference on Gender and Forestry, held in Umeå, Sweden in 2009.

The papers illustrate a range of voices and approaches found in applied gender studies. They also document the fact that gender is

"Our contribution to the gendered dimensions of forest management and decision making offers an opportunity for forestry scholars to contribute to contemporary social debates and to improve the prospects for achieving sustainability".

The final words of the preface to the special issue "Gender research in forestry", a supplement of the Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research.

important in the north, south, east and west of the world (papers include contributions from Nepal, Sweden, India, Canada, Kenya and Thailand), thereby redressing a longstanding perception that "gender and forestry" is a topic that is relevant primarily to southern and/or developing countries.

Read more: Lidestav, G. & Reed, M. (editors) 2010. Gender research in forestry. Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research, volume 25, Supplement No. 9.

Shortcuts

Finland: Metla helps with dissemination of information on African forests

The Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) has, together with the USDA Forest Service, launched an online research network for Africa.

The focus of the project is to organize and present forest-related scientific information from all regions of Africa, and make this information available via a web application – FORNIS.

The language is suitable for the general public, and thus FORNIS serves to disseminate scientific knowledge to a wider audience.

Read more:
www.metla.fi, www.fornis.net

Dendrochronologists met in Finland

The conference WorldDendro2010 assembled 330 participants from 42 countries. Under the midnight sun in Rovaniemi, they discussed how tree rings can be used as indicators of environmental change. SNS supported a group of young Nordic scientists.

An in-conference meeting provided the platform for a revitalization of the *Dendrokronologiska sällskapet*, for researchers in the Nordic and Baltic regions.

The network elected Professor Hans Linderholm from Gothenburg University as interim president. A joint conference is planned for 2011.

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