"OPEN ACCESS IN UKRAINE: FROM ISLANDS TO GLOBAL VILLAGE" PROJECT

A CASE STUDY FROM UKRAINE

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When we open up research results we increase the quality!

The researchers and research managers believe:

"*For Ukraine to become a really strong partner in the world of research, our researchers need to know what is published world-wide, what are the key research problems globally. They also need to share their research results. And it is a kind of quality test for them. By opening up their research results they demonstrate their achievements and others can easily verify them. When we open up research results we increase the quality. And access to research outputs also helps me in research evaluation. I believe that all research outputs should be in Open Access.*"

(Andriy Falalyeyev, Vice-Rector, Sevastopol National Technical University)

"*We launched an OA journal to give our researchers an opportunity to freely publish their research results and make them visible abroad. If you want to keep up with the current research, you need fast access to research results. As a scientist I am interested in larger audience for my papers. And I support Open Access to research publications.*"

(Dr.Roman Hladyshevskii, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, editor-in-chief, [Chemistry of Metals and Alloys Journal](#)*)*

"*Very often we feel like disadvantaged researchers because the majority of research outputs are closed for us (pay-walls or unavailable subscription). And it is always a pleasure to see Open Access to research outputs...For example PubMed Cental provides public access to research results of great importance for medical sciences.*"

(Tatiana Andreeva, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Editor-in-chief, [Tobacco Control and Public Health in Eastern Europe Journal](#))

"Currently we have the voluntary deposit policy and it is up to the researchers to decide which research outputs they should self-archive. I cannot imagine modern world without Open Access."

(Bohdan Kotur, Vice Chancellor for Research, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv)

"Providing global access to our research outputs is an action line in our Research Development programme. This is why about three years ago we launched an Open Access institutional repository where you can find almost all our publications. If we would't use this tool, who would have access to our research? And who had before we launched the repository? Open Access protects research materials from being plagiarised. Who would plagiarise from openly available sources? So this also an important prevention tool for unethical researchers." (Anatoliy Zahorodniy, Vice Chancellor for Research and Teaching, Lviv National Polytechnic University)

Our Open Access institutional repository is among the leaders in Ukraine [18,307 records] and it is being updated daily with research articles, books and teaching resources. Everything available in print is also available in the repository. Open Access in a very important tool."

(Mykola Pan, Vice-Rector, Kharhov National Academy of Municipal Economy)

"Open Access has being walking on our planet during more than ten years. This is phenomenon; more than this, it is positive phenomenon."

(Olexii Vasylyev, the President of Association "Informatio Concortium")

INTRODUCTION

Ukraine is a large producer of research outputs. There are 800+ higher education institutions in the country and among them there are 351 Universities and 119 research institutes of Academy of Science of Ukraine. Over 179,000 researchers are employed, including 84,400 Doctors of Science. Over 1,400 titles of academic journals and other scientific serials are published in Ukraine and over 170,000 articles are published annually.

Although Ukraine' research capacities are rapidly improving, some significant problems remain. The circulation of academic journals rarely exceeds 150-200 print copies that are not distributed in a systematic way. 99% of research publications are in Ukrainian language only, without English annotations. Only 15 academic journals in Ukraine have Impact Factors and are refereed by international systems, such as Thompson/Reuters. For this reason, scientific achievements of the country are globally presented as 1,500 articles annually, which is the same average index as one European/US University. Open Access (OA) can become a tool to break this information blockade.

CURRENT OA ACTIVITIES

36 OA repositories have been set up in Ukraine and there is a national harvester set up by Zhytomyr State University to aggregate research output and increase discoverability. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) [lists](#) 31 OA journals published in the country.

There are success stories in OA repository developments at

- V.N.Karazin National Kharkiv University (eKhNUIR: http://dspace.univer.kharkov.ua/)

- Ternopil Ivan Pul'uj National Technical University (ELARTU: http://dspace.tstu.edu.ua/?locale=en)

- National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" (NaUKMA): (eKMAIR http://www.ekmair.ukma.kiev.ua/)

- Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas (IBSS: http://repository.ibss.org.ua/dspace)'

- Sevastopol National Technical University (eSevNTUIR: http://sevntu.com.ua/jspui)

- Sumy State University (eSSUIR: http://essuir.sumdu.edu.ua/?locale=uk)

- Ukrainian Academy of Banking (eUABIR: http://dspace.academy.sumy.ua/)

- Kharkov National Academy of Municipal Economy (KNAME: http://eprints.ksame.kharkov.ua)

«ELibUkr – Electronic Library of Ukraine: Knowledge Centers in Universities of Ukraine» Project set up a multi-university OA repository (ElibUkr-OA: http://oa.elibukr.org) for researchers from other Ukrainian universities/research institutions which don't have their OA institutional repositories (IRs).

OA to Knowledge Statement has been endorsed by over 150 Ukrainian University librarians (on May 21, 2009) and an OA to research information clause has been included into the Olvia declaration of the Universities in Ukraine: Academic Freedom, University Autonomy, Science and Education for Sustainable Development endorsed by 26 rectors at Olvia Forum 2009 (on June, 12, 2009).

CHALLENGES

In spite of all the activities listed above only 5% of universities have OA IRs and only about 5% of those have OA policies in place. Key problems include:

- Lack of strategies and policies for research publications and data management and preservation.

- Lack of strong legislative mandate that obliges publicly funded researchers to make their research outputs publicly available.

- Self-archiving is not really practiced in the country and mediated depositing by librarians/ICT specialists prevails in most universities.

- Academic libraries are slowly gaining experiences in building and maintaining the research infrastructure.

- There are a lot of misperceptions of OA concepts and its importance for modern universities.

- Poorly written IR policies, unclear benefits of self-archiving for researchers and lack of appropriate intellectual property rights policies limits new developments.

- Slow deposit rates indicate lack of awareness, uncertainty about OA; a fear to disrupt relationships with publishers; lack of time to self-archive; unwillingness to make the extra effort required to deposit publications; established traditions to upload publications to personal or departmental websites without seeing any advantages in depositing into OA repositories.

To sum up, OA IRs in Ukraine still have not been designed as services that faculty want and OA benefits are not easily seen by the faculty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- The promo film "OA in Ukraine: from islands to global village" that provides introduction to OA and showcases prominent researchers and research administrators talking about OA. The film is available on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr1bpsiePF0&list=FL_p92NetABvJjevweukX_oQ&feature=mh_lol; it has been viewed over 180 times.

- 100 film copies (on CD-ROMs) have been given to different universities and research institutions all over the country.

- The film will serve as a useful tool for OA advocates because it can easily be presented to a variety of audiences, including university management, researchers, students or librarians.

- Over 530 researchers and students, research managers, editors and librarians learned about OA strategies and benefits, when attending six workshops (compared to four workshops initially planned) hosted by university/academic libraries in the following cities:

  - Lviv: Lviv Ivan Franko National University in September (over 100 participants)

  - Sevastopol: Sevastopol National Technical University in October; the event was a section at International Conference "Informatio-2011" (over 100 participants,)

  - Kharkiv: Kharkiv Karazin National University in October (120 participants)

  - Kyiv (NaUKMA) during OA week (showcasing the film, hosting a workshop, disseminating information about OA and OA promotional materials via social networks): on October, 28 NaUKMA hosted a workshop "OA – the new model of scholarly communication" people from a variety of Ukrainian regions attended. They saw excerpts of the film and discussed issues related to OA IRs and OA journals development (over 80 participants)

  - Mykolaiv: Mykolaiv National Admiral Makarov Shipbuilding University in November (50 participants)

  - Vinnytsya: Vinnytsya Regional Universal Research Library in December (50 participants)

- OA was presented at three sessions of the State Culture and Arts Management Academy (main training centre for librarians) in September – November (over 30 participants)

- In-depth interviews and workshops with researchers, university administrators, journal editors and publishers, and librarians highlighted their opinions about the importance of OA and the need for institutional OA policies to make research output visible globally. These interviews helped to change the university management's point of view concerning OA and introduced positive attitudes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goal of the project was to advocate for Open Access (OA) to research outputs in Ukraine. The activities planned included:

- Six workshops

- Release of a promotional film in which well-known researchers and top level university administrators advocate for OA

Target groups

- Researchers: to encourage them to practice self-archiving in OA repositories and publications in OA journals

- University administrations: to encourage them to adopt OA policies

- University librarians: to encourage them to set up OA IRs

- University publishing houses: to help them to transform their subscription-based journals into OA journals, as well as use open platforms for other scientific publications

- General public: to provide them with increased access to research output

Partners:

- Ukrainian Library Association (http://ula.org.ua/): OA promotion, including publicizing the new, promotional film

- ELibUkr Consortium (includes 17 universities, www.elibukr.org): identifying researchers and research managers to be interviewed, OA promotion, including publicizing the new, promotional film

- Association "Informatio-Consortium" (http://www.informatio.org.ua): conducting OA promotion via regular seminars, workshops and conferences, including promoting the new film

- The Mohyla School of Journalism, NaUKMA (http://www.j-school.kiev.ua/): screenplay, shooting, and film editing.

It was decided that the best way to promote OA is to showcase prominent Ukrainian researchers and research administrators practicing OA. We hope that the promotional film will encourage further growth of OA IRs in terms of numbers of new repositories launched and increased content deposition.

SUCCESS STORIES

The OA film and the presentations about OA at the workshops, helped to promote OA -- a number of universities expressed interest in implementing their own OA repositories and OA journals (in one case a new journal has already launched, see below).

Some testimonials:

Tatiana Andreeva, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Editor-in-chief, Tobacco Control and Public Health in Eastern Europe Journa: "The presentations about OA inspired us to create a new OA journal Tobacco Control and Public Health in Eastern Europe – and register it in the DOAJ".

Vasyl Kmet, Lviv National Ivan Franko University Library: "Thank you for the film, we watched it with great interest and presented to our colleagues, faculty and students. This film will help us to encourage researchers to deposit their publications in our OA repositories: Antropos (humanities) and Evrica (sciences)."

LESSONS LEARNED

Any advocacy project should be designed for multi-stakeholder communities. When you talk about OA, do not limit your audience to researchers and librarians only. It is important to integrate all the stakeholders: researchers, university management, journal publishers, librarians, and students!

It is hard to evaluate "direct" result, but we hope that our efforts will affect the perception and understanding of OA in the country. We hope that more OA repositories and OA journals will be launched, thus having effect on the global integration of Ukrainian science.

We hope that the film will become popular in all universities and research institutions. And it will also be broadcast on the national TV.

We are making efforts to ensure that the organizers of scientific conferences will show this film and that researchers and students will link to it from their websites and blogs. The film is licensed with Creative Commons BY-NC-SA license.