

## THE OPEN ACCESS SITUATION IN DEVELOPING AND TRANSITION COUNTRIES: A Report from the EIFL General Assembly 2010 in Lund

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*"The next best thing to knowing something is knowing where to find it."*  
(Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784)

The British poet, critic, and journalist Samuel Johnson hits two important aspects of the basis of scholarly work. Firstly, knowledge which can easily be regarded as the key to profound research activities, and secondly, the question of where to acquire the information needed. In today's knowledge society, 250 years after Johnson's creative period, the "where to find" is broadened by means of the internet. In developing and transition countries, libraries thus play an indisputably prominent role in supplying computer assisted instruction and research possibilities for both students and scholars, e.g. through e-resources. In order to enhance the access to knowledge, the internationally working non-profit organization EIFL (Electronic Information For Libraries), which was founded in 1999, "offer[s] a range of programmes and services designed to enable access to knowledge for education, learning and research and access to knowledge for sustainable livelihoods" by "partner[ing] with libraries organised in national library consortia - groups of libraries that share common goals - [and] thereby effectively reaching millions of people."<sup>1</sup>

The EIFL General Assembly 2010, which was held on August 6th - 8th in Lund/Sweden, thus put this year's main focus on Open Access Policies and Publishing as well as EIFL programmes, e.g. "Copyright for Librarians" and offered the valuable possibility of meeting publishers and exchanging ideas and information through "speed dating". Librarians from almost all of the 48 EIFL member countries in Africa, Asia or Europe seized the opportunity and came to Lund.

Rima Kupryte, the EIFL Director, opened the conference by giving a short update on what had happened since the last General Assembly on "Consortia Business" and "Innovation" in Alexandria, Egypt (November 18th-22nd, 2009): New EIFL staff members are accordingly Rosalie Lack (Deputy Director), Ilaria Vallati (Programme Support), Simon Ball (EIFL-FOSS Manager), and Ilse Gey van Pittius (Licensing Programme Support).

After 10 years, EIFL granted itself somewhat of a facelift by introducing a new logo, a new name (eIFL.net became EIFL), a revised website and a new message: "knowledge without boundaries". This slogan expresses EIFL's main aim to support unobstructed access to knowledge which is often endangered by legal, economic or geographic boundaries and is thus comprised in all EIFL programmes as recurrent theme.

EIFL currently covers programmes<sup>2</sup> advocating

1) access to knowledge for education, learning and research:

- **EIFL-Licensing:**

EIFL reaches agreements through negotiations with publishers in order to receive e-resources at highly discounted prices and fair user-optimized conditions. In 2010, several agreements were renewed, e.g. Emerald Journals, Oxford Scholarship Online, worked out, e.g. Oxford Handbooks Online, and campaigns promoted in order to sensitize for the topic and reach new users.

- **EIFL-OA (Open Access):**

Especially against the background of giving scholars the opportunity of contributing to the scientific community, EIFL puts forward the idea of open access. In 2010 for instance, three OA advocacy workshops were held, the *International Open Access Week*<sup>3</sup> supported, a partnership in the EU funded *OpenAIRE* project launched, and knowledge shared via two reports on *Open Repository Development in Developing and Transition Countries* and on the implementation of open content licenses in the target countries.

- **EIFL-IP (Copyright for libraries):**

In order to advocate equitable copyright laws, EIFL highly supports and provides advice to member countries in negotiations on copyright law and offers its members multiple training and capacity building opportunities. In March 2010, EIFL launched the project "Copyright for Librarians" - an Online Open Curriculum on

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services> (September 7th, 2010)

<sup>3</sup> In its 4th year, the International Open Access Week (October 18th-24th, 2010) is a global event to promote Open Access around the globe. <http://www.openaccessweek.org>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.eifl.net/cps/sections/services> (September 7th, 2010)

Copyright Law.<sup>4</sup> Designed for libraries in Developing and transition countries, the programme especially concentrates on those matters of copyright law which have an immediate impact on these institutions. Aiming to reach as many as possible, the course has a CC Attribution License - the contents may be printed, distributed, translated and adapted - and consists of nine modules at five different levels. The course is suitable for self-teaching, distance-learning, but traditional classroom learning is also possible.

- **EIFL-FOSS** (Free and Open Source Software for libraries):

EIFL provides libraries in developing and transition countries with modern up-to-date FOSS and offers training programmes for librarians. In September 2010, the second phase of the 18 month programme was initiated. Simon Ball is the new program manager.

2) as well as access to knowledge for sustainable livelihoods:

- **EIFL-PLIP** (Public Library Innovation Programme):

EIFL encourages public libraries in developing and transition countries to popularize by initiating programmes which attract the people in the communities, and to develop ideas and services for improving access to knowledge through modern technology, thus enhancing the livelihood of its users.

## Open Access Policies and Mandates

The key to successful open access programmes, nevertheless, is highly dependent on the acceptance by and involvement of students, scholars and institutions as they play a vital role in the whole process, for instance, by contributing their works with immediate open access to the scientific community. Thus, it is crucial to put emphasis on providing information for stakeholders in order to make them aware of the advantages of a change in scholarly communication towards open access business models, and how they can advocate the resulting changes in policy. Fair and elaborate open access policies and mandates are essential to an unobstructed availability of scholarly work. Open access provides students, scholars, and institutions with great visibility throughout the campus as well as immediate participation in the scientific community. Monica Hammes<sup>5</sup> stresses that

<sup>4</sup> Developed with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School.

<sup>5</sup> Presentation on "Case study: University of Pretoria – the first African university mandate" by Monica Hammes, Deputy Director: Strategic Projects,

research can be managed and assessed much easier through open access. Institutional repositories contribute to a dissemination of peer-reviewed, high-quality scientific work, mirroring the up-to-date research activities of the institution, promoting scientific progress, attracting both students and scholars and introducing the university or institution to the community.<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, acceptance as the key to success derives from a well thought-out basis, such as the signing of prominent declarations, (e.g. Budapest Open Access Initiative 2002, Berlin Declaration 2003), cooperation with well-known funders and universities. Another part of this basis are elaborate institutional mandates that are regulating the terms under which research output is added to an institutional repository.<sup>7</sup> This session, chaired by Melissa Hagemann<sup>8</sup>, provided an insight into open access policies and mandates initiated by universities in the EIFL network and the funding bodies. Thereby, institutions which contemplate negotiating open access policies were able to get to know various approaches and were given useful guidance.

## The University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria, represented by Monica Hammes, introduced the aims of the open University of Pretoria project (openUP)<sup>9</sup>:

- "change scholarship practice at UP towards becoming an open scholarship institution  
- provide open access to UP research and scholarship"<sup>10</sup>

As a consequence, whole collections of theses and research articles can be established and made available to the scientific community. Furthermore, two repositories add to the open scholarship, which has an impact on publishing practices, e.g. open access campus journals and information on open access journals as subject-focused publishing possibilities for scholars. In August 2010, the University of Pretoria has 5568 theses and dissertations available online (<http://upetd.up.ac.za>; mandate since 2004) with 234 metadata records, further focus is put on integrating the programme via ORACLE. 4388 full text articles and research papers are available on <https://www.up.ac.za/dspace> (mandate since 2009),

Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria, August 6th, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Senior Programme Manager, Information Programme, Open Society Institute

<sup>9</sup> Presentation on "Case study: University of Pretoria – the first African university mandate" by

Monica Hammes, Deputy Director: Strategic Projects, Department of Library Services, University of Pretoria, August 6th, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*

four journals of the University of Pretoria are already open access, and three more are yet to come.

### Open Access in Lithuania

The open access situation in Lithuania<sup>11</sup> is mainly focused on the Electronic Academic Library of Lithuania (eLABa). In 2003/04, the ETD Lithuania Project as a Pilot for the Baltic States was the first step to create a nationwide open access e-repository.<sup>12</sup> The eLABa is currently registered in ROAR (Registry of Open Access Repositories) and OpenDOAR (Directory of Open Access Repositories) and is available via Google, OAIster, BASE, NDLTD, etc. At government level, the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania (April 30th, 2009) declares that "all results of scientific activity carried out in the state science and study institutions must be made public (via the internet and by other means)."<sup>13</sup> This also applies to non-governmental institutions. One of the plans for the future covers the establishment of the Consortium of Lithuanian Academic Libraries for the Development and Support of Information Infrastructure for Science and Studies 2010, which will reorganize and develop the eLABa.

### Open Access in the Ukraine

The Parliament of the Ukraine passed a multi-institutional directive "[...] mandating electronic preservation of the research outputs and open access to research outputs [...]"<sup>14</sup> Hence, 1300 e-journals are open to the public via <http://www.nbuv.gov.ua/portal>. At the institutional level for instance, Ternopil State Ivan Pul'uj Technical University requires "[...] that all published journal articles and conference papers be deposited in the institutional repository (ELARTU) if there are no legal objections by publishers."<sup>15</sup> Moreover, ELARTU supports self-archiving by university members and scholars.

### Open access situation in Poland

Poland<sup>16</sup> started its first open journals in 1997 (EBIB,

<sup>11</sup> Presentation by Dr. Gintare Tautkeviciene, Head of Information Services Department, Kaunas University of Technology; Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA), August 6th, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Kretaviciene, Meile: Open Access in the Baltic Countries. Sciecom Info 1 (2008), 1-2.

<sup>13</sup> Presentation by Dr. Gintare Tautkeviciene, Head of Information Services Department, Kaunas University of Technology; Lithuanian Research Library Consortium (LMBA), August 6th, 2010.

<sup>14</sup> Presentation on "Case Study: Open Access in National Law - Ukraine." by Iryna Kuchma, August 6th, 2010.

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*

<sup>16</sup> Presentation on "Working together: Open Access projects in ena Bednarek-Michalska, Nicolaus Copernicus University Library in Torun, Poznan Foundation of Scientific Libraries.

PAN). In August 2010, 78 journals were registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The consortium of Polish digital libraries has achieved an outcome of over 400 000 digitized pieces and participates in the Europeana project. As an example for an institutional open access initiative, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling at Warsaw University advocates open access in the academic field and supports programmes like Communia, Driver, DOAR, Creative Commons Poland, and KOED. PCSS (Poznanskie Centrum Superkomputerowo Sieciowe)<sup>17</sup> projects include, for instance, software creation for Polish digital libraries, initiating an open repository of IBB PAN and launching the National Data Storage. They signed the Berlin Declaration on open access in 2009.

### OpenAIRE<sup>18</sup> project - EU funders' mandates

Iryna Kuchma<sup>19</sup> introduced a case study on the three year OpenAIRE project - EU funders' mandates. Currently, two pan-European open access initiatives are enhancing and advancing research and scientific innovation processes within the OpenAIRE project: the Open Access Pilot in FP7<sup>20</sup> and ERC Scientific Council Guidelines for Open Access.<sup>21</sup> The OA Pilot puts forward the idea of open access to peer-reviewed scholarly work by storing the articles in online repositories, thus facilitating access for scientists and small and medium sized businesses. Seven areas are to be included into the open access programme, i.e. 1. Energy; 2. Environment; 3. Health; 4. Information and Communication Technologies; 5. Research Infrastructures; 6. Science in society; 7. Socio-economic sciences and the humanities, whereas publications in the latter two are to be guaranteed open access within 12 months, all other areas within 6 months. *ERC Scientific Council Guidelines for Open Access*<sup>22</sup> is built on the ERC Scientific Council's Statement on Open Access of December 2006, enforcing the importance of peer-review in order to guarantee high quality research output and the broad availability and spread of scientific research. Subsequently, the Guidelines for Open Access complemented this approach stating:

2. The ERC requires that all peer-reviewed publications from ERC-funded research projects be deposited on publication into an appropriate research repository where

<sup>17</sup> Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center

<sup>18</sup> Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe

<sup>19</sup> EIFL-OA Programme Manager, EIFL

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.openaire.eu/en/component/content/article/10/47-open-access-pilot-fp7.html> (September 7th, 2010)

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.openaire.eu/index.php> (September 7th, 2010)

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.openaire.eu/en/open-access/ec-pilot-info/48-erc-guidelines.html> (September 7th, 2010)

available, such as PubMed Central, ArXiv or an institutional repository, and subsequently made Open Access within 6 months of publication.

3. The ERC considers essential that primary data - which in the life sciences for example could comprise data such as nucleotide/protein sequences, macromolecular atomic coordinates and anonymized epidemiological data - are deposited to the relevant databases as soon as possible, preferably immediately after publication and in any case not later than 6 months after the date of publication.<sup>23</sup>

Furthermore, OpenAIRE is to implement a European Helpdesk System in order to offer local support to researchers through a 27 countries comprising network with regional bases. An OpenAIRE portal and a repository facility for scholars who lack access to an institutional or subject specific repository are to be initiated.

### UNESCO's open access programme's objectives and planned activities<sup>24</sup>

By initiating an open access programme, UNESCO focuses on reducing the North-South divide which derives from an unequal distribution of access to knowledge and information exchange. Ouya names several upcoming activities, e.g. the Berlin8 conference in Beijing, a publication of the mapping of open access initiatives around the globe, and - planned for November 2010 - a regional workshop on open access in Africa (UNESCO, EIFL, ICTP) which is to address the topics of open approaches to scholarship, open access mandates and policies, the advantages of open

access publishing as well as the gains for scholars and institutions resulting from working with open access. Moreover, UNESCO seeks to deepen its advocacy to open access and to side with current open access programmes.

### The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)<sup>25</sup>

One possibility of making scientific and scholarly journals available online is the Directory of Open Access Journals hosted by Lund University Libraries, Head Office. The directory provides peer-reviewed or editorial controlled, high-quality journals with full text articles according to the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI; golden way). Since its start in 2003, the service comprises a whole of 442190 articles, 5359 journals in the directory and 2256 journals searchable at article level.<sup>26</sup> DOAJ also offers long-term archiving. The directory aims to emerge as a "one stop shop"<sup>27</sup> for open access journals by offering the whole of scientific and scholarly journals from multiple research disciplines and in various languages without delayed open access, i.e. no embargo period.

### Conclusion

Open Access achieved by an elaborate basis of programmes, projects and policies and in line with prominent declarations is of great benefit to the scientific and scholarly community. Free and unlimited access to knowledge not only contributes to "sustainable livelihoods" but, as a result, also to the development of sound economies and a profound research infrastructure. Thus, the "where to find" is only the great beginning of a "what to do with it."



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<sup>23</sup> <http://www.openaire.eu/en/open-access/ec-pilot-info/48-erc-guidelines.html> (September 7th, 2010)

<sup>24</sup> Presentation by Daisy Ouya, Open Access Consultant, ICT in Education, Science and Culture Section, Information Society Division, Communication and Information (CI) Sector, UNESCO, August 6th, 2010.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.doaj.org/> (September 10th, 2010)

<sup>26</sup> September 10th, 2010

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=about> (September 10th, 2010)