

Strategy for the OpenAccess.se programme 2011-2013

Adopted by the Steering Committee for OpenAccess.se at their meeting 2011-05-23.

Open access not only entails increased visibility for individual researchers, their institutions, funders, and nations, but also increased access to research results both for researchers and for all other interested parties. The importance of these issues for Sweden as a research nation is further emphasized by some marked developments within the research system:

- Intensified globalisation of both the implementation and the use of research
- Sharpened global competition for research excellence between institutions and countries
- Stronger demands on research to be relevant and useful for society.
- A rapid development towards a more and more computer-based and digitally communicated science, "e-science".

There is now a strong official support for open access in Sweden, a relatively well developed infrastructure of repositories, an increasing number of open access journals, and, in general, a quickly growing share of freely available publications. Focus is on articles and conference reports, but an open access model can also be applied to, for example, monographs, research data, and learning resources.

Aim

The Programme promotes open access to the works produced by researchers, teachers and students by supporting open access publishing at Swedish institutions of higher education.

Priorities

The foremost priority for the Programme is to help increasing the share of freely available research publications on the Internet.

The conditions constantly improve for reaching a breakpoint in the next couple of years, when more than half of the yearly production of Swedish, publicly funded research publications will be freely available. After that everything points to an even faster development towards open access. It is important that the increased accessibility is equally distributed between the higher education institutions and is supported by efficient dissemination routes

Quality requirements

The move towards increased open access must be handled with full regard to other important demands that can and should be addressed to the scholarly publication system:

- It must guarantee scientific quality and promote higher quality.

- It must have economic sustainability and be able to handle an increased research production with cost-efficiency.
- It must be efficient and flexible for both authors and users.
- Long-term accessibility to research publications must be guaranteed

Means

The Programme shall support both publishing in open access journals and parallel publishing in open archives. For a foreseeable future these two roads will run parallel. Developments can be furthered by:

- Clear requirements for open access from higher education institutions and research funders
- Information to researchers about open access to increase their understanding of its benefits.
- Simple but powerful services to make parallel publishing easier for researchers
- Licensing agreements and economic solutions for making it easier for researchers to publish in OA-journals can be implemented both locally and nationally, for example through the E-license consortium.

Goals for specific work areas

Detailed goals for the three work areas are presented below.

A. Policy

Goal: Promote a national open access policy and create the necessary conditions for an efficient implementation of it.

A national open access policy adopted by the government should provide authority and clarity to the continuing work with open access. Sweden would also be able to comply with the requirements of the European Council decision of 2007.¹ The Programme is prepared to take an active part in this work.

¹ "1. Reinforce national strategies and structures for access to and dissemination of scientific information by ... defining clear policies for dissemination and access to scientific information..." Council Conclusions on scientific information in the digital age; access, dissemination and preservation, 2832nd COMPETITIVENESS (Internal market, Industry and Research) Council meeting Brussels, 22 and 23 November 2007

The policy must:

- **Clarify what goals are desired by supporting open access and how these relate to other goals for the development of Swedish research and higher education, such as a strengthening of quality, internationalization, or the relations between research and society.**
- **Roughly outline what measures have to be taken and how various stakeholders must cooperate to move developments toward open access.**

Goal: Promote the provision of clear open access policies that require open access at higher education institutions and from research funders.

Today there are different kinds of open access policies issued by higher education institutions and research funders. If these policies are to have any effect, they must clearly require researchers to use existing possibilities to make their work open access, without hazarding their free choice of the publication channels most suited to their demands for quality and credit. An open access policy must also entail more coordination of the open access support given by higher education institutions and funders.

B. Information and advice.

Goal: Ensure that all researchers in Sweden know what open access publishing is and what it means.

The Programme shall take care that the information about open access has high quality, that it is widely disseminated, and that the researchers' open access publishing is encouraged and simplified.

Milestones

The Programme website www.openaccess.se shall give ample and updated information to both researchers and the general public about open access, and offer both a first introduction and more in-depth knowledge. When higher education institutions and funders want to inform about open access on their own websites they are free to link to, www.openaccess.se

Higher education institutions and research funders will coordinate information campaigns on open access for researchers. All Programme participants will inform about open access via their own channels.

Efforts must be made to increase the visibility of the information in the open archives.

There will be support for introducing licensing agreements that facilitate open access publishing for researchers into the e-licenses consortium negotiations.

There must be good channels and meeting places for active discussions and competence development for those who work with open access in Sweden. The blog “Open Access in Sweden” and “Meeting-place Open Access” are two important information channels.

The Programme shall contribute to information efforts on open access at both European and international levels.

C. Infrastructure and user services

Goal: Promote the development of an infrastructure and user services for open access in Sweden, both with a high degree of user-friendliness and quality.

Milestones

SwePub must have a more complete coverage and higher data quality. The database must be good enough to be used both for reporting purposes and as a stimulant for an increase of open access publications.

Parallel publishing shall be simplified by a continued development of the services offered by the open archives at the higher education institutions. The goals are better user-friendliness and quality. It is also important to be able to handle or link to research data and learning resources,

There must be more coordinated support for establishing new Swedish open access journals in relation to DOAJ and to the journal support systems currently used by research funders.

The majority of Swedish research journals shall either be open access or allow parallel publishing within a maximum of six months after publication.

There must be a considerable amount of monographs published as open access or as parallel publishing.

The e-publishing done by higher education institutions shall be included in the work-flow used by The National Library for digital harvesting and preservation and will be supported by the coming law on legal deposit of electronic documents..

There shall be established models for linking open access publications to open research data in cooperation between involved institutions and authorities.

There shall be access to standardized and coordinated usage data for open archives.

Note: This document was created after discussions in the Steering Committee 18 January 2011, in the Working Group for Information and Advice 10 February 2011, and in the Working Group for

Infrastructure and User Services 22 February, The decision to approve and adopt this strategy was taken by the Steering Committee 23 May, 2011.

Read the Swedish version here:

http://www.kb.se/dokument/Om/Strategi_for_OpenAccess_se_2011-2013.pdf