

Coordination of Open Access to Research Publications in Sweden



National Library
of Sweden

Knowledge in Collaboration – Political Support for Open Access in Sweden

The Swedish Government’s direction for the next ten-year research policy, as set out in the Swedish Research Bill, includes the goal that scientific publications which are the result of publicly funded research should be made immediately open access on publication.

Since 2006 The National Library of Sweden has worked with advancing open access to scholarly output, in short meaning that research results should be freely available online for everyone to access without cost, and that the material is free to reuse.

As of 2017 the National Library of Sweden holds an appropriation directive

from the Swedish Government to act as a national coordinating body in the work towards a transition to open access to scholarly publications.

“The National Library of Sweden shall coordinate the work on introducing principles to further the publication of peer-reviewed and scholarly open access publications. This coordinating work of introducing principles for open access publishing must take into account the principle set out in chapter 1, section 6 in the Higher Education Act (1992:1434) that research results may be freely published. The National Library will collaborate with the Swedish Research Council upon implementation of said assignment.” (From the appropriation directive to the National Library of Sweden, 2017)

In the Research Bill *Knowledge in Collaboration* the Government states that open access to research results contributes to maintaining and furthering excellence in research. Open access to research output can advance science by making it possible for more researchers to validate and build on previous work. Further, that open access plays an important role in society at large and that research and innovation to a large extent is carried out within industry and in the business and public sectors. All stake-

“The goal is that a transition to open access to research results, including scientific publications, artistic works and research data, should be fully implemented in a ten-year perspective.” (The Swedish Research Bill, 2016/17:50)

holders have a common responsibility in fulfilling this objective.

The Government states that clear incentives and mechanisms are needed in order to encourage researchers to publish their research output immediately open access.

Studies 2017–2019

In the Swedish Research Council's report *Proposal for National Guidelines for Open Access to Scientific Information*, a number of obstacles to a transition to an open access publishing system were identified. On the basis of this report the National Library of Sweden initiates and coordinates the following studies concerning:

- **The current merit and resource allocation system versus incentives for open access**
- **Funding for a transition from a subscription-based to an open access publishing system**
- **Open access to scholarly monographs**
- **Financial and technical support for converting peer-reviewed and scholarly journals from toll access to open access**
- **Monitoring of compliance with open access policies and mandates**

National Body for Coordinating Open Access in Sweden

On implementation of the Government Directive, the National Library of Sweden intends to continue its collaboration with national and international stakeholders.

An open access group comprising all main stakeholders has been established within the *Forum for National Library Collaboration and Development* at the National Library of Sweden. Its role is to support the National Library as coordinating body for open access, with a focus on contributing to the studies initiated.

The Open Access Group has representation from the Association of Swedish Higher Education, the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Society for Humanities and Social Sciences, Young Academy of Sweden and the Association of Swedish Special Libraries.

The current chair is Astrid Söderbergh-Widding, Vice-chancellor of Stockholm University.



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