Will There Be Any Transformation or Are We Stuck with the Transformative Agreements?

Wilhelm Widmark

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Leadership is needed

“Stockholm University advocates the availability of its research and research results through a research and education environment that promotes, encourages and informs about open science as a practice”
In the middle of the transformation...
Different organisations with different policies

- Horizon Europe, EUA, Leru, OA200, PlanS, All universities and many more!
- We haven’t aligned to one policy
- As we’re not united it is hard to put pressure on the publishers
The governments’ Research & Innovation Bill 2021-2024

- The government sees a need to **update the national direction for open science** to align with Horizon Europe. Publications, which are the result of publically funded research, shall be **immediately open access with effect from 2021**.

- It is important to **follow up and measure the national work for an open science system** in a comprehensive manner. It is also of great importance that the **policies of research funders and HEIs for open access to publications and research data** are harmonized as far as possible.

- HEIs and research funders also has a responsibility to **design clear incentives that promote open science**.

(p. 101-102)
Develop the work with open science

- **Universities and colleges** should continue to develop the work with open science in order for the activities to contribute to achieving the national direction for an open science system (Bill 2020/21: 60).

- The work includes contributing material to the Swedish Research Council and the National Library of Sweden's respective directive on coordination of work for open access.

(From the appropriation directive April 2021)
Swedish OA Landscape - Key Stakeholders

- GOVERNMENT OFFICES OF SWEDEN
- MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
- NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SWEDEN
- SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
- JOINT ACTION COMMITTEES
- BIBSAM
- HEIs - SUHF
- OTHER RESEARCH FUNDERS
- RESEARCHERS
- EU coordination

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SUHF and Bibsam Consortium

- Swedish Rectors Conference (SUHF)
- Library director forum, Open Science group
- Strategic discussions about scholarly communications
- Important to have university management engaged in negotiations with publishers
- 44 agreements including 21 transformative agreements and 3 with OA publishers/portfolios
- Turnover approx. € 48.7 million
- Governed by a steering committee, 7 representatives, chaired by a University President

https://www.kb.se/bibsamconsortium
New agreements 2022

• Springer Nature, Nature-titlarna
• ACM
• PLOS
• MDPI
Sweden – international comparison

Source: https://github.com/robustdcdata/ESAC_Transformative_Agreement_Registry
Last updated: 11-01-2022

https://esac-initiative.org-market-watch/
SLU tar upp Freedom Collection

Från 2017 och framåt räknar denna graf bara med de organisationer som var med från 2017.

Läsavtal + artiklarnas listprisvärde € 22 487 858

Pris om läsvalet hade fortsatt med 3,75% prisökning
Beyond the Transformative Agreements

• Aim
To work out a strategy for the consortia when negotiating new agreements after 2024. The strategy will be mandated from the management of the universities.

The group will also investigate alternative publishing routs and give suggestions on such.

• Time frame

• Membership
University management, researchers, funders and negotiators
Will there be any transformation?

- Very few publishers want to change their business models
- Many publishers start new journals behind the pay wall
- Business models built on print spend and APC-spend
- APC prices increase
- No transparency about what we are paying for
- Is the APC-model sustainable for the future?
- Different policies

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How can we get a transformation

- International discussions and cooperation
- Investigate and build alternative publishing routes
- RRS strategies
- Put pressure on the publishers to be transparent about their cost models
- Be ready to walk away from the negotiation table
- If we don’t act there will be no transformation
- Take the ownership of the publishing system back to the academia
- Investigate and build alternative publishing routes
- It is the researchers behavior that can change the system

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