The Wenner-Gren Foundations and the Academia Europaea
International Symposium
Publishing in Academia: Digital Challenges
May 10-12, 2023 at Wenner-Gren Center, Stockholm, Sweden

Program Committee: Lars Engwall (Chair), Kirsten Drotner, Theo D’haen and Marcel Swart

Abstract

Modern information technology has provided opportunities for a faster dissemination of information, including the presentation of research results and data from scientific projects. In this way, there are today unprecedented opportunities for an open science. Any information is possible to upload when a researcher finds it appropriate to do so. In this situation, a consortium of major national research agencies and funders from twelve European countries launched the initiative Plan S requiring by 2020 researchers who benefit from public funding to publish their work in open repositories or in journals that are available to all.

In principle, the idea behind Plan S is very logical: the outcome of publicly funded research should be regarded public property. However, in practice it is associated with both opportunities and challenges. At the same time as the ease of publication implies prospects for faster and wider diffusion of research result, it may lead to quality problems. It also appears that the publishing industry is taking advantage of the project by means of profitable payment models. This in turn has implications for the role of libraries and the economic conditions of universities. Above all, there are indications that the digitalization of academic publishing has repercussions for early and mid-career researchers. Against this backdrop, the symposium will include sessions with expert presentations, followed by discussion, on recent developments in the publishing industry, the role of libraries, repercussions for researchers at different stages of their career and quality assessments.
Program

Wednesday May 10

12.30-13.00: Registration

13.00-13.15: Welcome and Introduction
Britt-Marie Sjöberg and Lars Engwall

13.15-14.00: Key-note: State of the Art
Johan Rooryck, Executive Director, cOAlition S
Plan S and cOAlition S: Accelerating the transition to Open Access

14.00-14.15: Leg Stretcher

14.15-16.15 Session 1: The Publishing Industry
Chair: Lars Engwall
Dominic Mitchell, Operations Manager, Directory of Open Access Journals
Open Access, quality and a community-driven approach
Masja Horn, Brill Publishing
Are we still collaborating? A case for a pluriform publishing landscape
Chris Graf, Springer Nature
Three tides of change: The role of technology in protecting the scientific record

16.15-16.45 Coffee Break

16.45-18.15 Session 2: The Role of Libraries
Chair: Milena Žic-Fuchs
Lars Burman, Chief Librarian of Uppsala University
Experiences of change: The libraries’ role in academic publishing
Alexandra Vraneš, Library Studies, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
The role of the library within the university

18.30 Welcome Reception and Buffet Dinner, 23rd floor

Thursday May 11

09.00-10.30 Session 3: Repercussions for Early Career Researchers
Chair: Marcel Swart
Marina M. A. Rantanen Modéer, Board Member, Marie Curie Alumni Association
Repercussions for early career researchers
Scott Bremer, Representative of the Young Academy of Europe
*Mapping publishing pitfalls for early career researchers*

Pil Maria Saugmann, Eurodoc Secretariat Coordinator
*TBA*

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Session 4: Repercussions for Senior Researchers  
*Chair: Alban Kellerbauer*

Stefan Helgesson, Professor of English, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden  
*English versus small languages: Navigating forms and genres of research in the age of saturation*

Christine Musselin, Professor of Sociology, SciencePo, Paris, France  
*Transformed publication strategies*

12.30-13.30 Lunch, 23rd floor

13.30-15.00 Session 5: East European Countries  
*Chair: Jürgen Enders*

George Sharvashidze, Ambassador, Former Rector of Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University Georgia, Former Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Georgia  
*Problems of publishing by young scholars in Eastern Europe*

Liviu Papadima, Dean of Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest  
*TBA*

15.00-15.30 Coffee Break

15.30-17.30 Session 6: Beyond Europe  
*Chair: Marie Farge*

Abel Packer, SciELO (Scientific Electronic Library OnLine), a bibliographic database, digital library, and cooperative electronic publisher for open access journals for Latin America and the Caribbean.  
*SciELO 25 years of Open Access*

Chengzhou He, Dean of Arts, Nanjing University.  
*Digital publishing and new academic ecosystem: An ANT approach to the recent disputes over a Chinese journal database giant*

Osman Aldirdiri, Director at FORCE 11 (The Future of Research Communications and e-Scholarship) and Executive Committee Member at SPARC Africa (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition Africa).  
*TBA*
17.45 Departure by bus from Wenner-Gren Center

18.00 Dinner on a boat trip

Friday May 12

09.00-10.30 Session 7: Quality Assessment of OA publishing
Chair: Kirsten Drotner

Sven Stafström, Former Director General, the Swedish Research Council
Quality assessment of scholarly publications

Charlotte Wien, Vice President of European Library Relations, Elsevier Verlag, Denmark
Is living easier with eyes closed?

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 Session 8: Financial Consequences for Universities
Chair: Wim Blockmans

Astrid Söderbergh-Widding, Rector of Stockholm University, Sweden
Beyond transformative agreements: Ways forward for universities

Bjørn Stensaker, Vice-Rector of University of Oslo, Norway
Rising costs and questionable quality? The need for institutional strategies

12.30-13.15: Concluding Panel
Chair: Lars Engwall

Theo D’haen, Former Editor of the European Review, Professor Emeritus of English and Comparative Literature

Alban Kellerbauer, Editor of the European Review, Scientific officer, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Karlsruhe, Germany

Katalin Solymosi, Vice-Chair of the Young Academy of Europe, Assistant Professor of Plant Biology at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest.

Milena Žic-Fuchs, AE Board Member, Professor of Linguistics, University of Zagreb, Former Croatian Minister of Science and Technology.

13.15-14.00 Lunch, 23rd floor