

Trends in OA Publishing: Conference Report Open Science 2019 (OAI11 and OAT19)

Coffee Lecture Series Mittelstrasse, 16.10.2019

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Structure of the Coffee Lecture

OAI11, Geneva (June 2019)

- What is it? Participants and Topics
- PlanS implementation

OAT19, Hanover (October 2019)

- What is it? Participants and Topics
- On Open Access strategies and where they are headed to

OAI11

What is it?

1. « Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication », hosted by CERN and the University of Geneva
2. First held in 2001; aims at engaging «with all communities in the scholarly communications landscape, to explore new developments and the challenges of their implementation»
3. OAI11 Theme: «Open Science – its impact and potential as a driver for radical change»
4. Participants were librarians, open science activists, academic entrepreneurs

OAI11

Topics

1. Fair Data (FDM in general)
2. Copyright issues
3. Open Access in monograph publishing
4. Preprints, archiving and dissemination of early-stage output
5. PlanS implementation

OAI11

What is PlanS?

1. Launched by a consortium of European Funders in 2018, PlanS postulates that “from 2021, scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms” (SNF: 2020; swissuniversities: 2024 – does not apply to books)
2. PlanS foresees that authors retain copyright and that all publications must be published under an open license, preferably CC BY
3. PlanS calls on funders to develop robust criteria for high-quality Open Access journals
4. A variety of “business models” for Open Access journals and platforms is accepted

OAI11

Workshop on PlanS implementation

Discussion topics

1. Is PlanS implementation harmful or useful for junior researchers?
2. Communication with researchers: communication and awareness gap – publishing is also about the identity of a research community

Two Ways out of the dilemma?

1. «Flipping» of journals: closed-access journals turn «open»
2. Green OA: established journals allow secondary publication (PlanS strongly prefers gold OA, while the SNF is open to green OA)

OAT19

What is it?

- The Open Access Days are hosted by open-access.net, a platform for Open Access Publishing based in Germany
- organised by the universities of Göttingen, Konstanz and Bielefeld (with cooperation from the ETH Zurich and the University of Vienna)
- Taking place every year since 2007, the Open access days are the key conference for Open access and open data in the German language area

OAT19

Topics

- Big Deals and Open Access
- PlanS and the role of libraries
- Open Access Advocacy
- APC
- Open Educational resources and sustainability
- Open Access discourse

OAT19

Open Access discourse

Key note by Elena Šimukovič, based on her research undertaken at the University of Vienna

Basic contentions:

- «Open Access» started as a movement and became a complex set of institutions and players entangled in a network of power, competition, national priorities and money
- Every argument in favour of Open Access has a flip-side, which is largely not mentioned

OAT19

Open Access discourse – arguments

1. «Open access allows a flow of knowledge from North to South»

- This view assumes northern knowledge to be better than southern or eastern
- HOWEVER, this argument omits that OA can allow a flow of knowledge both ways (especially if APCs are kept low)

2. «Is OA publishing the only way to communicate research to the public?»

- Šimukovič pleaded for using other platforms than open access journals and stressed the need to communicate research results in local languages
- HOWEVER, a key issue in academic publishing is quality, achieved by review procedures, which must apply to open access publications as well (and actually most often do)

OAT19

Open Access discourse – arguments

3. «Open Access strategies»

- Transformative agreement: change away from subscription model
- Criticism that transformative agreements tend to reproduce existing power constellations, in which certain countries, publishing houses, and institution maintain their privileged position
- Big publishing houses use their clout
- HOWEVER: Such agreements allow to maintain esteem and visibility of established journals AND meet OA criteria
- PLUS: OA green publication strategy is omitted here

OAT19

Open Access discourse – arguments

4. «Sustainability for whom?»

- «Open access is not per se sustainable – the question is: for whom or what?»
- Libraries have to assume new roles, hire different personnel and shift funds
- Funders have to fulfil their public role in a different way
- HOWEVER, sustainability does not mean “no change”; the question of sustainability applies especially to knowledge, research data, and research results

5. «Dead horse theory»

- «If your horse is dead, dismount», instead of changing rider, using stronger whips etc. Criticism is directed primarily at DEAL-negotiations
- HOWEVER, what are the dead horses in OA exactly?

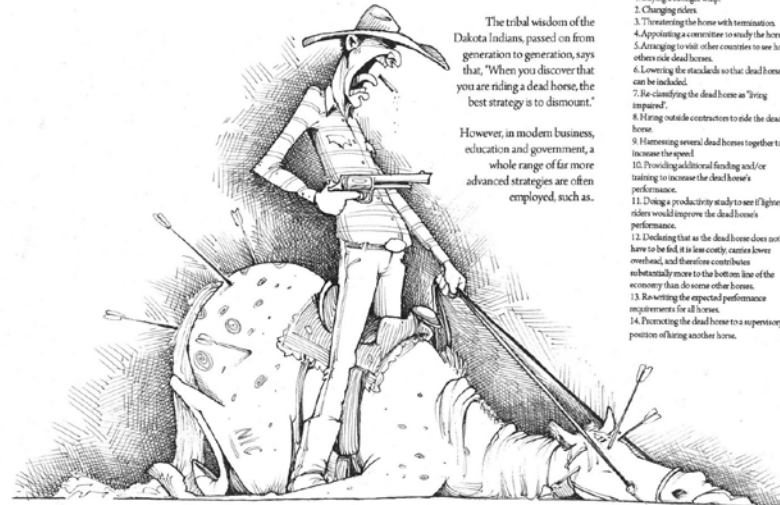
Q & A

A small glossary

- **APC:** Article processing charges (also: Book Processing Charges, and Book Chapter Processing Charges) are to be paid by authors to publishers for OA publications (SNF refunds only Gold OA), <https://oa100.snf.ch>
- **OA Monographs:** SNF funds Gold OA Books, whether they result from an SNSF-funded project or not (but must meet quality standards)
- **PlanS:** A plan to implement OA-publishing launched by major European Funders, pushing for gold OA, does not apply to books (yet) www.coalition-s.org
- **Project DEAL:** a consortium of university libraries negotiated large deals with major publishing houses, allowing full-access to journals and possibility to publish OA (publish & read model: fees will be calculated on the basis of publication) <https://www.projekt-deal.de/>
- **Transformative agreements** are contracts that shift payment from a group of libraries to a publisher away from subscription-based reading and towards open access publishing
- **Bern OS Team:** https://www.unibe.ch/universitaet/dienstleistungen/universitaetsbibliothek/service/open_science/index_ger.html

Thank you!

THE DEAD HORSE THEORY



The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from generation to generation, says that, "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount."

However, in modern business, education and government, a whole range of far more advanced strategies are often employed, such as,

1. Buying a stronger whip.
2. Changing riders.
3. Terminating the horse with termination.
4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
5. Arranging to visit other counties to see how others ride dead horses.
6. Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
7. Re-classifying the dead horse as "being impaired".
8. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
9. Hammering several dead horses together to increase the speed.
10. Providing additional feeding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
11. Doing a productivity study to see if tighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
12. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead, and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do some other horses.
13. Re-writing the expected performance requirements for all horses.
14. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position of hiring another horse.