



Coordinating Open Access in Sweden

National Library of Sweden

Beate Eellend
Open Access Coordinator



Timeline for open access in Sweden

- **2003** Berlin Declaration signed by e.g. Swedish Association for Higher Education (SUHF), Swedish Research Council (SRC) & National Library of Sweden (NLS)
- **2005** SUHF recommendations to all HEI's on open access
- **2006** National Library initiates openaccess.se
- **2010** SRC mandate on open access (followed by other Swedish funders)
- **July 2012** EC Recommendations on open access
- **Oct 2012** Open access addressed in the Swedish Research Bill
- **Jan 2013** SRC commissioned by the Swedish Government to propose national guidelines for open access to scientific information (in consultation with NLS)
- **Jan 2015** SRC presents proposal on oa guidelines
- **May 2016** Swedish Minister of Research and Higher Education signed Councils conclusion on open access (together with all Member States of EU)
- **Nov 2016** Swedish Research Bill with national goal for open access

Knowledge in collaboration (Research Bill 2016)

- National goal that all scientific publications which are the result of publicly funded research should be made immediately open access on publication
- The transition to open access to scholarly publications, research data and artistic works should be fully implemented in 2026 at the latest
- Open access to research results contributes to maintaining and furthering excellence in research and can advance science by making it possible for more researchers to validate and build on previous work
- Open access plays an important role in society at large
- All stakeholders within the Swedish research system have a shared responsibility and should collaborate towards the national goal for open access
- Clear incentives and mechanisms are needed in order to encourage researchers to publish their research output immediately open access



Governments assignments on open access

- **2017** National Library shall act as a national coordinating body in the work towards a transition to open access to scholarly publications. (Swedish Research Council national coordinating body for open access to research data.)
- **2018** National Library is instructed to monitor and report the total cost of publication for scientific publications in Sweden. When doing so the National Library shall pay particular attention to costs regarding subscriptions, publication charges (APCs), and administrative expenses.
- **2018** National Library shall develop indicators for assessing whether scientific publications fulfil the FAIR-principles for publications. (Swedish Research Council on FAIR-principles for research data)
 - Further, the National Library shall propose a method that provides a comprehensive overview of the extent to which scientific publications and research data meet the FAIR principles.

National coordination and collaboration for open access

- Swedish Research Council proposal on national guidelines (2015) identified a need for further studies in order to solve certain obstacles in the transition to open access.
- On basis of these obstacles the National Library of Sweden initiated and coordinated five studies on open access (2017-2019)
- Five working groups with stakeholder representation from Swedish funding agencies, HEIs, researchers and the NLS (Oct 2017 to Dec 2018)
- The working groups conducted literature studies and empirical work.
- Two joint surveys were sent out to Sweden's HEIs as well as to a selection of research funders.
- Draft versions of the five studies were made available for comments, whereby various stakeholder groups were invited to contribute.
- Shared goal to recommend national solutions on the identified obstacles



6 reports and 16 recommendations on open access

- 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 national open access journals
- Monitoring of compliance with open access policies and mandates, including CC-licenses
- The transition to open access to scholarly publication (Summarizing report)

Presented to the Ministry for Research and Higher Education in March 2019



The current merit and resource allocation system versus incentives for open access

The study shows that open access is subordinate to other discussions about how publication merits should be valued.

In addition, only few national and international guidelines for review, promotion and tenure explicitly mentions open access.

Also, there are dimensions in the valuation of publishing merits that directly impede a transition to open access.

Summary of main recommendations

- **Guidelines for merit assessments by HEI:s and research funders should eliminate aspects that adversely affect researchers that publish open access. Coordination is needed between HEI:s, funders, learned societies and research associations.**
- **Funders and HEI:s should include their mandates on peer-reviewed open access in guidelines and training for review and assessment panels.**
- **A national forum for responsible research metrics should be established.**

Funding for a transition from a subscription-based to an open access publishing system

The study underlines the complexity and uncertainty of how funding streams for scientific publishing currently are nationally distributed from both funders and HEI:s to the publishers.

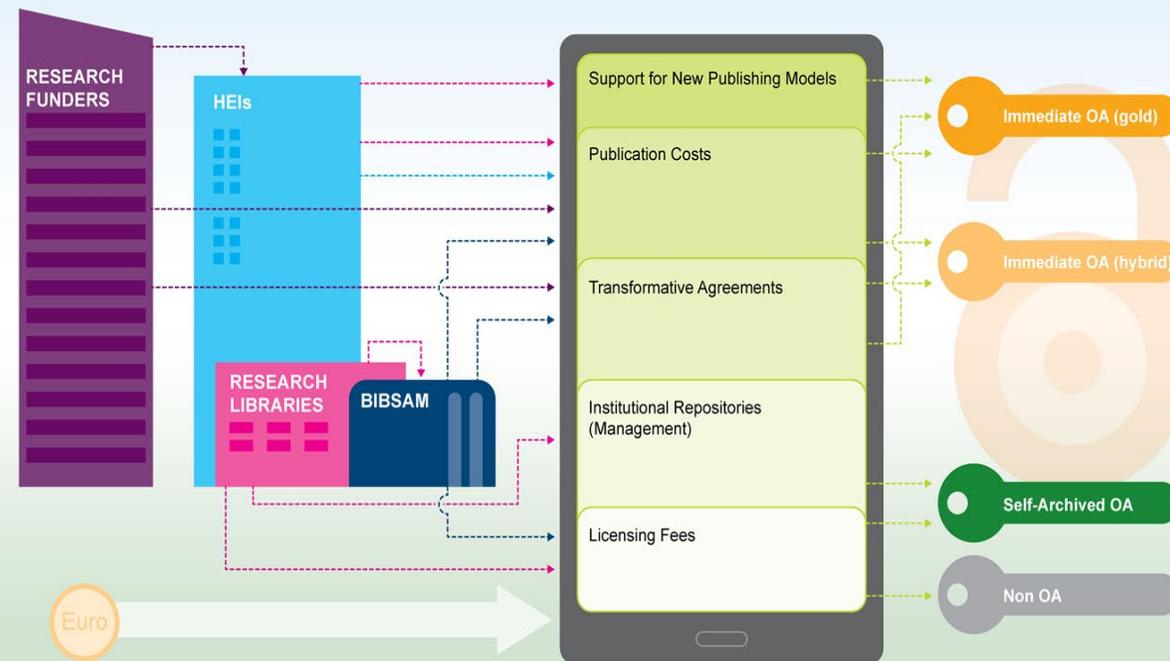
National systems and infrastructures need to be redesigned to facilitate the processes for administering and organizing a transition to an open access publishing system.

In the transition from financing license agreements for reading (subscriptions) to financing publishing costs for open access, it is of great importance that the financial burden is not imposed on the individual researcher.

Summary of recommendations

- **Funders and HEI:s should take shared responsibility for financing publishing costs. Mutual consultation between the two stakeholder groups is of great importance. Financing of publishing costs should transparent and centrally administered (Bibsam consortium)**
- **Suggested themes: restricting funding for publishing in hybrid journals, transformative agreements, alternative publishing models**
- **Total costs of publications should be continuously monitored and analyzed**

Total cost of publication - redirecting the funding streams



Total cost of publications in Sweden

- **Approximately 50 million Euro/Year (43,4 million Euro minimum)**
- **Subscription fees (Bibsam and local deals): 37,7 million Euro**
- **Transformative deals: 3, 5 million Euro**
- **Publication costs (APC): 2, 2 million Euro**

Publication costs are highly underestimated due to lack of data.

Open APC Sweden:

- 12 HEI:s are delivering apc data.
- Many HEI:s have introduced a specific account for publication costs.
- Funders are not (yet) monitoring funding for publication costs



And so the national coordination continues....

- Plan S compliance – continued collaboration with funders and HEI's
- Novel methods in negotiations with publishers
- Open APC Sweden
- Publishing Platform for national open access journals (journal.se)
- Open Access monographs
- EC recommendations on open access (updated version)
- Benefits to society at large (lifelong learning, authorities and agencies, health organisations, NGO:s, citizen science etc....)
- National Libraries collaborating as drivers for open access



Thank you for listening!



www.openaccess.se
@openaccess_se
openaccess@kb.se

