

Open Access as an academic publishing requirement

By 2020, all academic publications are to be based on the *Open Access* principle; in other words, they are to be freely accessible. This decision has been made by both the European Union via its Horizon 2020 Research Programme, and by the Norwegian authorities. The Brekke Commission, set up by the Ministry of Education and Research, has followed up this aim and studied the consequences of open access to academic publishing. The commission submitted its report “National Guidelines for *Open Access* to Research Results” on July 14, 2016. The report recommends that NSD’s Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers should be given more resources to work with *Open Access* journals: “In order for open access publication to be considered legitimate, it is important to have a register where researchers can find an overview of high-quality open access publication channels. The Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD) is doing important work to ensure the researchers have such a register. The working group recommends that this work be strengthened financially, to assure the allocation of sufficient resources to NSD in order to continue the work, while also ensuring high quality and short processing time,” says the report. The report is currently being circulated for comments in the research community, with a deadline for responses of November 1, 2016. The Brekke Commission has suggested that *Open Access* should be one of the quality criteria for academic research.

Highly important for researchers

NSD has developed and is responsible for running four registers and web-sites of great importance for



KRISTIN GÅSEMYR
is Head of NSD's Section for Higher Education and Research Statistics

researchers in Norway, Scandinavia and Europe. The Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers was set up in 2004, and currently includes more than 30,000 active publication channels, i.e. journals, series and publishers. The register is used as a model by several other countries, for example as a standard for the allocation of research funding in South Africa. Since 2014, NSD has indicated whether a publication channel is *Open Access*. In collaboration with the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR), NSD has recently launched a web-site for the Norwegian Publication Indicator (NPI) (npi.nsd.no). NPI is intended to ensure transparency in the process of nominating Norwegian publication channels, which in turn will have effects on financing research. The information contained in the NPI is based on the Norwegian Register.

International lists

The European ERIH PLUS register is a list of journals in the humanities and social sciences. ERIH PLUS was adopted by NSD in 2014, and is based on the former ERIH Register (European Reference Index for the Humanities), which was run by the European Science Foundation (ESF). This register comprises around 10,000 journals and is closely associated with the Norwegian Register. Information about the journals can be sourced by merging the lists in the two registers. A further goal of ERIH PLUS is that *Open Access* journals should be marked in the future. There is a great deal of interest in ERIH PLUS, and for the time being, it has limited its selection of submitted journals for European research. The collaborating Nordic countries wish to support *Open Access* as they are in the process of forming a new Nordic register of academic channels at NSD. The register will include cross-referenced lists from existing national registers, which will make it easier to quality-assure publication channels for the entire Nordic region. Several European countries that lack their own national registers are following developments with great interest. The Nordic register is expected to be ready for use in 2017. NSD is working with *Open Access* in all four registers, and *Open Access* will be introduced and practised in these registers. This work will have a widespread effect and will affect registers of importance not only for Norwegian but also for European and international researchers.