Open Access has Major Implications for all Researchers

Over the last five years the mantra “publicly funded research should be publicly available” (or, as it is otherwise known, Open Access) has gone from an idealistic desire to a practical reality. Increasingly more funding agencies are making it a condition that if a researcher accepts funding then they must publish the resulting articles Open Access. In Sweden VR is also contemplating just such a stipulation.

As a researcher, one has several choices when the time comes to publish an article. First, one can choose an Open Access journal, i.e. one that does not require a subscription or other fee from the reader. For most of these journals, there is a publishing fee of 4000-15000 SEK. Secondly, one could choose the various schemes of pay-for-Open-Access at the traditional publishers. Generally, the payment is in the range 10000-25000 SEK. In both these cases, these fees are acceptable expenses for most research grants (however, the common reality that many articles are published after a grant has terminated complicates matters). Finally, parallel publishing (see below) is an acceptable solution.

Parallel Publishing

Parallel publishing of research articles (i.e. taking articles published with traditional journals and making them available at E-Press as well) has been allowed by the major publishers for a few years now (clarified under the “authors retained rights” section of your copyright transfer agreement) and at E-Press we have parallel published some 150 articles to date.

Parallel publishing is one way for you to meet a funding agencies requirement that your work is made available Open Access. At E-Press we try to contact an author of newly published articles, however, we do miss some and so if you have an article you would like parallel published, contact us.

A signification motivation for parallel publishing your work, is the potential increase in citations, as shown by the figure below comparing parallel published and non-parallel published articles from the same journal.

Millions of Downloads from E-Press

The main objective at LiU E-Press is to increase the accessibility and hence visibility of the research that is conducted at LiU. One measure of this is the number of downloads of full-text documents (theses, articles…). In 2007 just over one million articles/theses were downloaded from E-Press. In 2008, already by October, over 1.2 million articles and theses have been downloaded. Our readers are coming from all over the world (75% non-Swedish), mainly via Google but also from the major scientific indexers. LiU has virtually the most on-line material in Sweden with the resulting very high dissemination statistics.

New Journals

Two new international, peer-reviewed journals will be releasing their first issues in the Spring: Northern European Journal of Language Technology and Culture Unbound. Three more are at various stages of development/approval. E-Press offers an editorial support system, publishing and indexing for Open Access journals. Through our experiences since 1997 with hosting journals, LiU E-Press has built up a reputation in Sweden for it Journal Hosting Service.

What can we do for you? At Electronic Press, we publish theses, research articles (post-prints), conference proceedings, peer-review journals, historical databases and research series. As an author, the biggest advantages for electronic publishing are the unrivalled availability of your work and the potential for you to make use of multi-media to present your work. As well, if you are looking for information, try searching the publications we have; there is a good chance you will find something of interest.

For more information about LiU E-Press and how we can help you, please visit www.ep.liu.se.
If you would like us to come and talk about electronic publishing, contact us also at ep@ep.liu.se.