Open access and quality of publications

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The National Library of Finland 6.2.2017
Science policy
Open access benefits research → services, infrastructure and incentives needed to support openness

Research evaluation
OA alone does not guarantee solidity, originality, and scientific or societal impact of research

PERFORMANCE-BASED RESEARCH FUNDING

Norway, Denmark and Finland use the “Norwegian model” of block-grant allocation that links national publication data to a weighted quality index of publication channels.

- Complete Publication Data
- Rating of Publication Channels

Funding Formula

Block-grant to Universities

Need to identify OA publications

Better to set OA incentives directly in the universities’ funding formula = larger weight for OA publications

Need to identify OA outlets (gold and green)

Rather than to include OA among the Publication Forum evaluation criteria
OA IN PUBLICATION FORUM RATING

**LEVEL 1**: expert panels identify in all fields peer-reviewed publication channels (journals, conferences and book publishers)

- Same criteria for OA and traditional channels: specialized in publishing research results, expert editorial board, peer-review of research publications
- Exceptions: localness and *questionable quality (predatory journals)*

**LEVELS 2 & 3**: expert panels indicate in each field the leading publication channels

- Leading outlets with widest reach, strongest impact and prestige among the international and national research community
- *If two equally good journals in the same field are competing for the higher rating, golden OA or green OA journal with reasonable embargo (6-12 months) is favored over one that does not support OA.*
OA INFORMATION SOURCES

DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

• “Whitelist” of reliable peer-reviewed OA journals. Since 2014 DOAJ has implemented new quality criteria for inclusion, journals with "green tick" or a DOAJ Seal are considered to be indexed.

• DOAJ also publishes list of removed journals. Grounds of removal, such as “Suspected editorial misconduct” or “Not adhering to Best practice” may alert experts to questionable standards of quality.

SHERPA/ROMEO

• Color codes depict publishers' or peer-reviewed journals' policies regarding the self-archiving of journal articles on the web and in Open Access repositories
INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

There will be an increased need for reliable information sources on gold and green OA outlets

• whitelist better than blacklist

• Nordic ratings by specialists contribute to the knowledge base

Nordforsk is presently funding a Nordic List collaboration project to create a common registry of publication channels aiming to:

• reduce and share the burden of maintaining bibliographic data

• improve the data quality and sharing of information on quality of academic/scholarly outlets

The Nordic group relies on DOAJ as trusted source of information on OA journals.