



## Denmark's National Strategy for Open Access

Open Access is a matter of getting maximum value for research.

The gains for Danish companies, Danish research and Danish society from free access - Open Access - to research findings are numerous. With increased accessibility to scientific articles on the Internet for all, we will achieve much more effective knowledge sharing among researchers, research institutions and companies. Open Access will result in new and improved research opportunities – especially with regard to inter-disciplinary research – and improve access to research-based knowledge for companies and others, thereby contributing to ensuring that state-of-the-art research is put to use more swiftly to create innovation and growth in society.

### **Vision**

To create free access for all citizens, researchers and companies to all research articles from Danish research institutions financed by public authorities and/or private foundations.

Researchers, universities and other research institutions, research councils and foundations, libraries, publishing houses and companies all play a crucial role in optimising knowledge sharing and the application of state-of-the-art research findings. Now it is a question of ensuring that all also will contribute to optimal implementation of Open Access for research and innovation in Denmark.

### **Targets**

To achieve by 2017 via digital archives – repositories – unimpeded, digital access for all to 80 per cent of Danish peer-reviewed scientific articles from Danish research institutions published in 2016.

To achieve from 2022 and onwards unimpeded, digital access for all to 100 per cent of all Danish peer-reviewed scientific articles from Danish research institutions published from 2021 and onwards.

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Internationally, there are already strong initiatives in progress to ensure the roll-out of Open Access. The European Commission, the US, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland and institutions such as the National Institutes of Health, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft and Wellcome Trust are just a few examples of actors endeavouring to spread Open Access via strategies, policies and targets.

Danish researchers are already well under way in terms of complying with Open Access requirements – not least as a result of Horizon 2020 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – that requires Open Access with regard to all research articles having received support from the framework.

### **How to obtain more Open Access?**

We will only prove successful with Open Access if all actors are committed to the same target. As part of Denmark's national innovation strategy, "*Denmark – a nation of solutions*", the Minister for Higher Education and Science has set up the National Steering Committee for Open Access.

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The objective of the National Steering Committee for Open Access is to implement and further develop the national strategy for the implementation of Open Access. In this connection, the steering committee is, through coordination at national and international levels and in consultation with relevant parties, to ensure the further development of the infrastructure for Open Access at the research performing institutions in Denmark.

This strategy places focus on two types of Open Access – the green and the golden models.

Golden Open Access covers a model where the journal as such is published as Open Access, and all its articles are made immediately accessible online free of charge. The costs are covered either by an editing organisation or through author publication charges that are paid for each individual article. For the time being, this model implies, however, considerable extra costs for public authorities in relation to the existing model of publication according to which payment for reading the articles is covered through subscriptions.

Green Open Access, by contrast, refers to publication in a quality-assured journal coupled with parallel filing of the final quality-assured version of the researcher's article in a digital archive – a repository – to which there will be open access for all interested persons via the Internet – potentially after a waiting period if required by the journal.

Green Open Access is a swift and cost-effective method for disseminating scientific articles that are quality assured and in demand. Green Open Access does not imply a change of existing quality assurance on the part of the publishing houses. It merely means that the final quality-assured version of the article is filed and disseminated from a repository subject to Open Access.

Admittedly, it is crucial for research and for society that aggregate public expenditure for scientific publication does not increase significantly as a result of the implementation of Open Access. Similarly, it is recognised that further implementa-



tion of Open Access must not restrict the researchers' freedom of publication. Both preconditions constitute the basis for Denmark's national strategy for Open Access.

Open Access in Denmark does not imply that the Government is to replace private publishing houses' valuable contribution to knowledge sharing. By contrast, the implementation of Open Access, with assistance from this key part of the publishing chain, is to ensure that we succeed in disseminating the quality-assured knowledge that is in demand to as many as possible and as fast as possible.

Consequently, it is crucial that Open Access in Denmark contains continued quality assurance of research findings in the form of the journals' peer reviews. This quality assurance is the necessary critical review of research findings ensuring the legitimacy of research. Without it, Open Access will have no effect.

The implementation of Open Access in Denmark takes place on the basis of the following focus areas:

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- The implementation of Open Access is primarily to take place through the green model, i.e. parallel filing of quality-assured research articles in institutional or subject-specific archives (repositories)<sup>1</sup> with Open Access. The golden model may, however, be used provided it does not imply an increase in expenses for research publication.
- The implementation of Open Access is not to take place through legislation, but through collaboration between relevant actors.
- Whereas the implementation of Open Access is primarily to take place through the green model, the National Steering Committee for Open Access in consultation with relevant parties is to examine the opportunity for a long-term cost-effective transition to the golden model i.e. payment of author publication charges and other types of cost recovery regarding quality assurance and publication.
- In the implementation of Open Access, steps must be taken to ensure that researchers keep part of their copyright so as to allow them to file the final quality-assured version of their scientific articles in a digital archive. This will be done in negotiations between Denmark's Electronic Research Library and the scientific publishing houses.
- The implementation of Open Access is to be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that all parties make a maximum effort to develop and disseminate free accessibility to Danish research findings.
- Researchers are to be informed of the practical use of the infrastructure by publishing in Open Access.

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<sup>1</sup> Parallel published Open Access articles in Denmark are subject to the Act on Legal Deposit of Published Material. The coupling to the deposit of the articles in local repositories should therefore be examined in detail.



- Companies are to be informed of the opportunities to obtain state-of-the-art research for their innovation.
- With a view to effective use of the research findings, it is necessary to create one well-functioning platform for general dissemination of Danish Research findings.
- The implementation of Open Access is to support the possibility for Danish researchers to continue to publish in the most recognised national and international journals, and also the possibility to publish in Danish-language journals.

Altogether, the collaboration regarding these focus areas will constitute the basis for the best possible implementation of Open Access, thereby contributing to ensuring that Denmark makes optimal use of the conducted research for the benefit of society as such.