EIFL-OA: Open Access

Removing barriers to knowledge

"PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS IN LITHUANIAN RESEARCH JOURNALS" PROJECT
A CASE STUDY FROM LITHUANIA

Eleonora Dagiene, Chair of the Council at The Association of Lithuanian Serials

February 2012

Results of the EIFL-funded project

INTRODUCTION

A survey of the Association of Lithuanian Serials showed that the majority of Lithuanian research journals were uploaded to simple websites; this approach results in low visibility of Lithuanian research and provides no solution for interoperability with other online system.

More than 130 participants involved in publishing attended the international conference, "The Possibilities of Disseminating Lithuanian Research Journals Worldwide", organized by the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium and the Association of Lithuanian Serials during the Open Access (OA) Week 2010 (on 21 October). As a result of attending this conference, 10 research journals decided to use the Open Journal Systems (OJS) – a FOSS journal management and publishing system, developed by the Public Knowledge Project.

OJS provides a platform that supports every stage of the refereed publishing process, from submissions through to online publication and indexing, as well as helps to expand and improve access to research by publishing the journals in an interoperable format.

Currently 18 institutions are members of The Association of Lithuanian Serials publishing over 80 journals. Before this project started, only six of those journals used OJS.

For more information about Lithuanian research journal publishing see a recent article in the ScieCom info, Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific Communication, March 2011 Issue written by the project coordinator Eleonora Dagienė, Chair of the Council at The Association of Lithuanian Serials. The article presents "Changes in Lithuanian Research Journal Publishing in 2009–2010" and how the Lithuanian scholarly publishers are adapting to the new publishing environment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 130 participants involved in publishing attended training events and learnt about OJS and on-line publishing. Seminar materials are available from the website of the Association at http://www.moksloperiodika.lt/lt/open-journal-systems.html.

- Lithuanian OJS version and guidelines for journal editors and publishers have been released and disseminated.

- Digital Object Identifier (DOI), and Cited By (by crossref.org) have been added to the OJS installations in the Lithuanian and English languages. Promoting plagiarism detection tools (CrossCheck) (by crossref.org and iThenticate).

- 22 OJS installations(and counting) implemented at seven research institutions:

    - Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU): Coactivity: Philology, Educology; Coactivity: Philosophy, Communication; Business: Theory And Practice; Science – Future of Lithuania; Evolution of Science and Technology; Business, Management and Education

    - The Lithuanian Statistical Society: Lithuanian Journal of Statistics

    - The International School of Law and Business: Current Issues of Business and Law

    - The Journal "Sveikatos mokslai" *(Engl. Health Sciences)* (non-for-profit organization): Health Sciences

    - The Association of Lithuanian Serials: Development of Public Law

    - Scientific methodical centre "Scientia Educologica": Problems of Management in the 21st Century

    - 11 journals owned and published by Kaunas University of Technology

- More journals started to work on OJS installations in 2011, however, haven't gone live yet.

- All these journals are in the process of being registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

- Improved online visibility and accessibility of the Lithuanian research journals.

- The OJS system made it considerably easier for journal editors to manage manuscript submissions, reviewing and publishing. For example, after the OJS installation the journal "Sveikatos mokslai" *(Eng. Health Sciences)* changed its frequency from four to six issues a year.

- Libraries assisted the journals with OJS installations and expanded their services to new areas and new communities. For example, Kaunas University of Technology, that owns 11 journals, had one OJS installation before the project started and within the project all eleven journals started using OJS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following activities took place to achieve the aim of the project's goal:

- Presentations to the journal editors and publishers and to the researchers and research managers reviewing and reading journal articles;

- Survey of current OA policies and practices among the publishers of Lithuanian research journals (editorial boards, publishing houses, research managers and reviewers);

- Templates for Lithuanian journals who would like to start using OJS in English and Lithuanian languages;

- Sharing experiences and best practices in installing and using OJS;

- Recommendations for journal editors and publishers on how to implement OJS in Lithuanian academic institutions;

- Organizing a conference to present the project results (in collaboration with Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium).

LESSONS LEARNED

If you would like to customize your OJS implementation, you will need the assistance of an IT specialist, willing to take part in PKP forums and get feedback from peers from around the world.

Additionally, we recommend that the DOI of articles with full metadata (references, data for CrossMark, etc.) should be registered at CrossRef; Cited by Linking widget (to retrieve items that cite a specific article) should be implemented; CrossCheck (plagiarism detection tool) should be used; and all OA journals should be registered in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

SHARING PROJECT SUCCESSES

Eleonora Dagienė presented at

- the Knowledge Exchange OA workshop in Tallinn September 2011 Scholarly Society Journals in Transition (www.knowledge-exchange.info/Default.aspx?ID=479), the Third OA Scholarly Publishing Conference (COASP 2011);

- EIFL-OA and EIFL-FOSS online workshop OA Publishing with OJS coinciding with OA Week 2011. 50 people from 24 countries (Belarus, Canada, Colombia, Estonia, France, Ghana, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Poland, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Uruguay, UK and Zimbabwe) attended the session, more information is here;

- International conference organised by the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium Opening the Scientific Knowledge in Vilnius (also coinciding with OA Week 2011) (www.lmba.lt/en/news/opening-scientific-knowledge);

- A seminar for editorial boards at Riga Technical University (attendees from the Baltic States), presentation is available here: https://ortus.rtu.lv/AMLogin.

THE FUTURE

We expect that more editorial boards will start using OJS in the coming years. While implementing innovations in OA publishing of research journals and sharing experiences gained during the project, we expanded the circle of like-minded people with whom we expect to continue working in the future.