



knowledge without boundaries

EIFL-OA: Open Access

Removing barriers to knowledge

INFORMATION ABOUT OPEN ACCESS MOVEMENT AND RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA A CASE STUDY FROM LATVIA

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Results of the EIFL-funded project: "Information about Open Access movement and resources in the University of Latvia"

INTRODUCTION

The faculty members of the University of Latvia (UL) is the largest research community in the country involved in scientific publishing. LU academic staff annually publishes on average 3, 000 research papers, but these are not widely available. So it is important to collect these research papers and provide access to them via Open Access (OA) institutional repository (IR).

The first OA event took place in the country in 2009 ("OA: Maximising Research Quality and Impact" on 22 October 2009, organised by the LU, the State agency "Culture information systems" (KIS), and EIFL) and brought together researchers, research managers and policy-makers, journal editors and publishers, librarians, and ICT specialists to discuss the latest developments of the OA movement and to debate how to raise the visibility of research outputs from Latvian universities and research organisations, and how to build their capacities in global knowledge sharing. In his welcoming speech, Prof. Indrikis Muiznieks, LU vice rector, confirmed, that LU is looking forward to exploring the benefits of OA as a viable solution to existing problems in scholarly communication.

Many researchers in Latvia already practice OA: publish in OA journals and self-archive in subject repositories (such as PubMed Central, ArXiv, Cogprints etc.). There were some initial steps that have been taken to support OA policy in Latvia. The UL provides free access to the [Scientific papers](#) published by the UL Press via the University portal. Theses (full texts and their summaries) defended at the UL since 2006 are also made freely available in the database [Theses of the UL](#). To advance OA developments in the country the UL decided to set up an OA IR.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- An OA IR was implemented at University of Latvia (UL) (<https://dspace.lu.lv/dspace/>) and launched in May 2011; currently there are 390 (and gradually increasing) full text publications deposited.
- 100 faculty and students as well as librarians and information professionals in Latvian libraries attended lectures and an international workshop, resulting in increased understanding of OA and an increased awareness about advantages offered by OA IRs.
- 25 people attended public discussions about OA and copyright management.
- Print and online materials in Latvian were created and widely distributed. A wide range of information about OA in Latvian is now available for researchers and students.
- UL staff are now better informed about OA.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The goals of the project were to promote OA at the UL and launch an OA IR.

The primary objectives:

- to prepare and distribute educational materials – printed materials (leaflets, posters) in the faculties and branch libraries of UL;
- to prepare and distribute electronic information (on the website of the UL, by e-mail);
- to set up the UL IR; and
- to prepare scientific publications (articles in scholarly journals) about OA.

The main activity: UL OA Week with discussions, lectures and international workshop.

The primary audiences of the project: researchers, scientists, administrative and teaching staff of the UL.

Project information strategies:

- information on the web site of the UL, leaflets and posters about OA;
- discussions, lectures and a workshop during OA Week.

STRATEGIES, TACTIC, AND TOOLS

1. Publicity and media activities. The main media tool was the website of UL:

- The project - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/projekti/openaccess/>
- OA - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/resursi/open-access/>
- OA journals - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/resursi/open-access/open-access-zurnali/>
- OA institutional repositories - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/resursi/open-access/repozitariji/>
- useful links - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/resursi/open-access/noderigas-saites/>
- OA e-resources (e-journal and e-book databases, institutional repositories etc.) with links and annotations - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/resursi/datubazes/brivpieejas-e-resursi/>
- information before <http://www.lu.lv/zinas/t/8827/> and after OA week including review with full text presentations, photos and video - <http://www.lu.lv/biblioteka/par-biblioteku/aktivitates/konferences-un-seminari/oa-nedela/>
- Other means of publicity included mailing lists and public announcements, like Latvian Library Portal – <http://www.biblioteka.lv/Sector/News/ArticleItem.aspx?article=13957&type=0>

Photos and video

- Pictures from discussion on October 23 - http://foto.lu.lv/arhiivs/2011/j_okt/23/index.html
- Pictures from the workshop on October 28 - http://foto.lu.lv/arhiivs/2011/j_okt/28/index.html
- Video from the workshop - <http://www.lu.lv/par/mediji/video/konferences/2011/repozitarijs/>
- Pictures from OA week on Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lubiblioteka/sets/72157628133553722/with/6347525748/>

2. Promotional materials were created: OA leaflets; posters about OA (A2 and A3), leaflets about European Commission OA policies and OpenAIRE project.

3. Creation and development of IR of the UL – <https://dspace.lu.lv/dspace/>. The repository is based on DSpace software with structured communities and collections. End-users instructions were created and the repository was promoted at the UL. Since the launch of IR 390 full text research

items have been deposited – theses and dissertations, research articles published by the faculty, UL journals (e.g. Acta Universitatis Latviensis / Scientific papers).

4. A scientific publication about OA that addresses the new trend in knowledge communication system – about the possibilities of new technologies to enable the publication and dissemination of scientific information – was published in Latvian language.

5. Successful OA Week 2011 Activities (see below).

SUCCESS STORIES

All of the activities during the OA week are considered success stories, though the most successful was the international workshop "The significance of institutional repositories in research development and availability of scientific information" (more details - [here](#)). The workshop attracted not only participants from the UL, but also from other universities and libraries from Riga and other Latvian towns.

In addition a discussion "Sharing of experience and developing ideas of cooperation" took place. It was held between institutions that have already implemented institutional repositories in Latvia ([more details](#)).

Researchers from the Faculty of Law have been engaged during the project implementation and one of them - Mārcis Krūmiņš – gave presentation "OA to scientific information and copyright" ([more details](#)).

The other positive outcome was the creation of leaflets and other information about OA that was then shared not only at the UL, but also to representatives from other universities and libraries from Riga and other places in Latvia. The leaflets were also distributed at "United World Latvian Scientist III Congress" and "IV Letonica Congress".

Promotional leaflet with information about OA was very useful to give a short introduction to OA and promote OA within and outside the University.

With distribution of leaflets and posters we informed the researchers from the University of Latvia and other institutions about the main importance of OA and IR. With workshop, lecture and discussion, we generated interest in the research community about OA. The most positive collaboration that we had was with the Faculty of Computing, but we hope to have more feedback from the researchers in future.

LESSONS LEARNED

Our advice would be to start the planning of all project activities as early as possible, especially main events like workshops.

THE FUTURE

We will continue to distribute the leaflet and other information resources created. And we will continue with the institutional repository management – promotion, deposition, providing copyright advice, etc. We are planning to organize a promotional campaign - meetings and consultations in departments and faculties to promote the repository, OA ideas and initiatives; to train them on how to deposit publications, and also we will keep the researchers informed via email and University of Latvia web portal.