



A project within the Nordbib programme
Visibility of Open Access and Nordic Collaboration

Final report

Lund 2010-05-10



ScieCom info. Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific communication

**A project within the Nordbib programme *Visibility of Open access and Nordic Collaboration*.
Focus area: *Policy and Visibility (WP1)***

FINAL REPORT by Ingegerd Rabow

Project management:

Lund University Libraries, Head Office
Ingegerd Rabow
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Project duration:

2008-02-01—2010-01-31

Total budget for the project and the applied amount:

Total budget: DKK 1 096 437
Applied amount: DKK 444 825
Project final budget outcome: **DKK 376 075**
Detailed budget in Appendix 1

Participating members:

The project members have constituted the editorial board of the journal, and have represented all the Nordic countries and the Baltic States. See below under Editorial Board.

Publishing office: Head Office, Lund University Libraries.

Publisher: Lars Björnshauge, University Librarian. Lund University Libraries, Lund University.

Publication address:

<http://www.sciecom.org/sciecominfo>

Project background:

There was and still is a need for a widespread interactive information forum on the development of scientific communication and Open Access in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

ScieCom info (ISSN 1652-3202) was originally established in 2004 as part of the Swedish national project *Swedish Resource Centre for Scientific Communication (SRCSC)*, sponsored by the Swedish National Library, at first via BIBSAM, and later via the *openaccess.se* programme. Project manager and editor-in-chief was Ingegerd Rabow.

Within its subject area, *ScieCom info* became an internationally established small web journal, that for a couple of years both nationally and internationally fulfilled most of the necessary knowledge dissemination for the *SRCSC* project, i.e. both to inform a national readership about global developments and initiatives in order to inspire local activities, and to inform the world about

Nordic activities and developments.

When the project period ended in 2007, funding from the Nordbib programme “*Visibility of Open Access and Nordic Collaboration*” opened a possibility for further development of the journal into a Nordic-Baltic Forum for scientific communication and Open Access in both the Nordic and the Baltic region. Publishing policies and goals were adapted accordingly. See more below.

A comprehensive Nordic/Baltic coverage was to be guaranteed by an editorial board consisting of experienced and well-connected experts from all the Nordic/Baltic countries. See list of editors below.

PPurpose/Mission:

- To inspire and promote new activities and initiatives in the region
- To promote and facilitate knowledge exchange and dialogue between Nordic/Baltic stakeholders
- To increase the international visibility of Nordic and Baltic policies and initiatives.
- To stress the importance of Open Access in the Nordic and Baltic countries
- To describe both theoretical and best-practice models for financing, rights management and other fundamental issues.
- To target both a regional and an international readership for information about successful initiatives and other activities in the Nordic/Baltic countries.
- To be prepared to handle the Nordbib programme needs of active information sharing by disseminating this information to a larger audience.
- To function as a test-bed for the OJS-system, thus gaining experiences that could be used to support/help/advice other OA-publishers in the region. .

Some specific objectives:

- Keep track of and present ongoing and completed Nordic projects (e.g. Nordbib, opeaccess.se, NORA etc)
- Publish reports from Nordic seminars and workshops
- Follow the developments of Nordic scholarly journals (language, e-publishing, OA-models, support systems etc)
Give opportunities for international comments
Create contacts and networks between stakeholders

Target groups:

The aim has been to address librarians, administrators, funders, learned societies, publishers, policy makers, and other important stakeholders. Focus has been on a regional audience, but an international readership has also been targeted. Distribution has been world-wide, as can be seen by the distribution lists. (Appendix 3)

Journal Description:

As can be seen in the Bibliography (Appendix 2), *ScieCom info – Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific Communication* has been able to fulfil its goals, It has functioned as an Open Access web journal covering current developments in Open Access in the Nordic/Baltic countries, as well as other aspects of scientific and scholarly communication...

Publishing system:

We chose the Open Journal Systems (OJS), as it is the dominating Open Source publishing software and is easy to use. All earlier articles from 2004 onwards were converted to OJS, which means that all material in *ScieCom info* now is easily searchable within the same system.

ScieCom info has also to a certain extent been used as a test bed for the Nordbib

project “*Aiding Scientific Journals towards Open Access Publishing*”: WG 1 “*Editorial software systems*”, and has resulted in some practical experiences useful to other publishers in that project. Our overall experiences of the OJS are good.

Frequency:

Quarterly issues with at least four full articles per issue. See the Bibliography (Appendix 2).

Language:

The choice of language was seen as very important. We decided to establish a new language policy, enabling us both to reach an international readership and at the same to do something to preserve the local languages. According to the new policy, full articles should be published in English. Abstracts of articles written by Nordic/Baltic authors should be written in their respective languages, thus both making searching in, for example, Icelandic, Lithuanian, or Finnish possible, and enabling non-English speakers to grasp at least something of the article content.

Editorial Board:

According to the original plan, the journal has had editors from all the Nordic /Baltic countries

- **The Baltic countries**; Meile Kretaviciene, Director of Kaunas University of Medicine Library, Lithuania. Meile has represented Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania,
- **Denmark**: Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard, the State and University Library Århus. After the first period, Birte resigned due to a new appointment and was replaced by Adrian Price, Faculty of Life Sciences Library, and University of Copenhagen.
- **Finland**: Turid Hedlund, Swedish School of Economics and Business Administration, Helsingfors
- **Iceland**: Sólveig Thorsteinsdottir, Library and Information Services, Landspítali University Hospital
- **Norway**: Initially Per Arne Jakobsson, Library of Medicine and Health Sciences, Oslo University. After a short period he left his editorship to Jan Erik Frantsvåg, University Library, IT-management and development, University of Tromsø, Norway
- **Sweden**: Ingegerd Rabow, Head Office, Lund University Libraries. (Editor-in-chief)

An initial meeting was set up in Lund to give all members of the editorial board and the editorial staff a chance to get acquainted, and to discuss important journal concerns. The editorial board has decided on strategy, editorial policies, guidelines, subject themes, and invited authors. After this initial meeting, all discussions within the editorial board and with the editorial staff have been virtual, primarily to save time and money, but also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Application budget for travel costs will thus be reduced as well.

Editorial Staff at the publishing office:

Jörgen Eriksson, Head Office, Lund University Libraries

Kristoffer Holmqvist, web designer, Head Office, Lund University libraries

Jane Sjöberg, Head Office, Lund University Libraries, Lund, Sweden

Technical support:

Salam Baker Shanawa, Head Office, Lund University Libraries

Document types:

Invited articles: We have only published invited articles. Submissions have neither been invited nor accepted. The OJS supports automated submissions, and we have received several invited articles this way, although most of them have arrived as email attachments. We have wanted articles to be short and easy to read on the screen. Around 2000 – 4 000 words per article and minimum 4 articles per issue. Nordic/Baltic and international authors (with a Nordic/Baltic perspective)

Reports: Projects, conferences, seminars etc. Covered by the country editors.

Interviews.

News and notices section: Important and interesting events primarily in the Nordic/Baltic countries. Short information on upcoming events, conferences, seminars etc.

Reader comments on published items: Facilitated by the publishing system OJS. So far no comments have been received this way...

With each issue there has been a standing invitation to readers to suggest ideas for content and to supply information. Ideas have been put forward, but not quite as many as we would have liked.

MMarketing and distribution:

A short editorial) with a commented and linked content presentation of the current issue has been sent out by the editor-in-chief to:

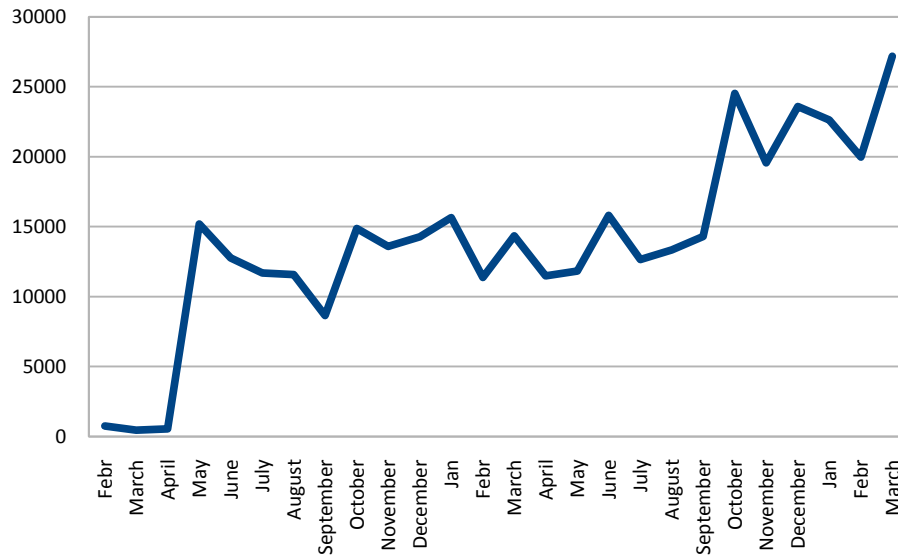
- Subscribers to the *ScieCom* and *ScieCom info* mailing lists
- Other relevant national and international lists, blogs etc. The letter/editorial has been distributed to local country lists by editors representing these countries.
- Individual stakeholders. (by all editors)

See detailed distribution lists in Appendix 3

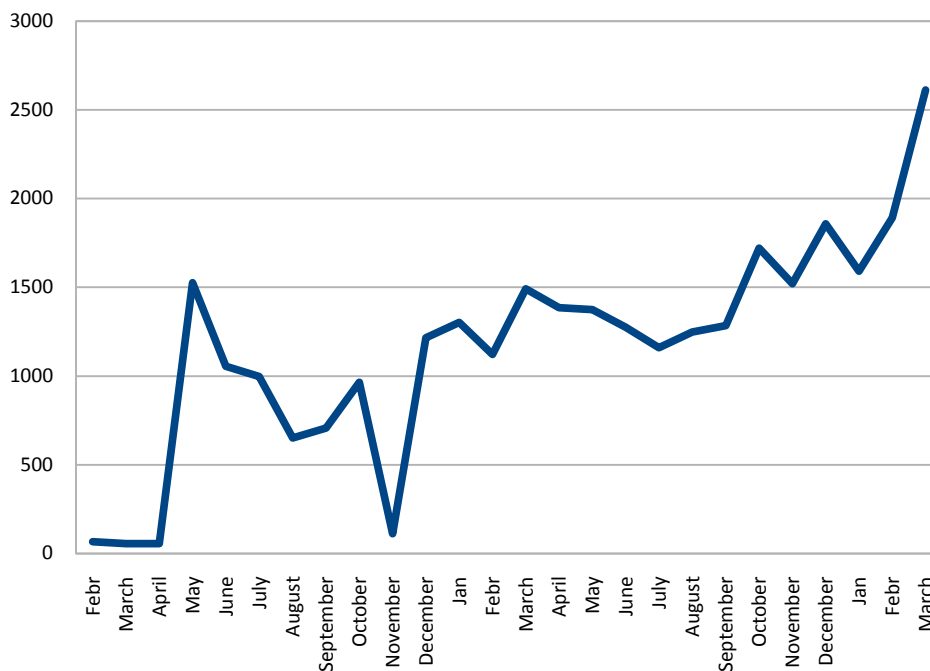
Statistics:

There has been a steady growth in both successful requests and in served hosts from February 2008 through March 2010 as is shown by these two diagrams.

Sciecom Info Successful Requests



Sciecom Info Distinct Hosts



Google Page Ranl comparisons with some other Nordic OJS journals published/hosted by

universities:

Google Page Rank:

- *Bergen Language and Linguistics Studies. Univ Bergen: 4/10*
- *Nordisk barnehageforskning. Univ Oslo: 4/10*
- *Nordic Journal of Information Literacy in Higher Education. Univ Bergen: 5/10*
- *Sats - Nordic Journal of Philosophy Förlaget Philosophia, host CBS: 5/10*
- *ScieCom info. Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific communication: 6/10*

Audience- quotations:

The fact that the regional journal *ScieCom info. Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific communication* has had its complete linked content listings regularly quoted by Peter Suber in *Open Access News* has also helped us reach a global audience,

We have also often been cited in *SPARC Open Access Newsletter*, and by *D-Lib Magazine -- Clips and Pointers*, and are tagged in the *OA-tracker*, and posted to *Connotea* and other sites.

Conclusions:

This report shows that *ScieCom info. Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scientific Communication* has been able to broaden its scope and to markedly increase its audience.

The journal has its specific niche as a forum for information about projects, initiatives and activities in this part of Europe

As the reputation of the journal has grown, it has been very easy to attract authors.

Usage statistics demonstrate a steadily rising curve, and the dynamic developments within open access in the Nordic/Baltic region will offer new and interesting subjects for coming articles

Appendix 1.

Budget report.

	Total budget	Self financing	Nordbib		Utfall i projektet
	1 250 000 DKK	750 000 DKK	500 000 DKK		
SV:					
Editor-in-chief (including salary, social taxes) 20%	268160	160896	107264		107267
Editor- support	90840	54504	36336		36336
Web designer 20h*1000	20000	12000	8000		8000
Meetings (editorial board and invited guests)	10000	6000	4000		4000
Technical support 20h*1000	20000	12000	8000		8000
Summa	409000	245400	163600		163600
Overhead, administrative cost	143150	85890	57260		57260
Totalt SV	552150	331290	220860		220860
DK:					
Editing work (including salary, social taxes)	50000	30000	20000		20000
Travel costs	8000		8000		
Overhead, administrative cost	17500	17500			
Totalt DK	75500	47500	28000		20000
IS:					
Editing work (including salary, social taxes)	50000	30000	20000		20000
Travel costs	17000		17000		
Overhead, administrative cost	17500	17500			
Totalt IS	84500	47500	37000		20000
FI:					
Editing work (including salary, social taxes)	50000	30000	20000		20000
Travel costs	13000		13000		
Overhead, administrative cost	17500	17500			
Totalt FI	80500	47500	33000		20000
NO:					
Editing work (including salary, social taxes)	50000	30000	20000		20000
Travel cost	17000		17000		
Overhead, administrative cost	17500	17500			
Totalt NO	84500	47500	37000		20000
Megatotalt SEK	877150	521290	355860		300860
Total DDK	1096437,5	651612,5	444825		376075

Appendix 2.

Bibliography of articles published during the project period 2008-2009.

Articles issue 2008:1

Theme: Setting the Stage. State-of-the-art reports from all the Nordic and Baltic countries by the journal editors.

- *Open Access in the Baltic countries*, by Meile Kretaviciene
- *Open Access in Denmark* by Bertil Dorch, the Royal Library Copenhagen and Birte Christensen-Dalsgaard (editor, see above)
- *Promoting Open Access in Finland – the OA-JES Project*, by Turid Hedlund (editor, see above) and Claus Montonen, University researcher (theoretical physics), PhD, doc. University of Helsinki
- *Open Access in Iceland, State-of-the-art report* by Solveig Thorsteinsdottir
- *Open Access in Norway – where are we, and where are we going?* By Jan Erik Frantsvåg

Articles issue 2008: 2/3:

Starting to explore a new theme: *Open Higher Education in the Nordic/Baltic countries*

- *University of Helsinki opens its research vaults: a few words on open access and the new research environment in Finland* by Marjut Salokannel, LL.D., IPR expert in the EU funded CLARIN infrastructure project, and chair of the working group analyzing how access to research data could be organized at the University of Helsinki.
- *News about Open Access in Norway, a state-of-the-art report* by Jan Erik Frantsvåg (editor, see above)
- *The Meeting on Open Access in the European Union and Lithuania, 7th May 2008* A report by Meile Kretaviciene (editor, see above)
- *Telling a different story in open access journals?* by Helena Francke, Dept of Cultural Science, Lund University
- *Open Educational Resources in Swedish HE institutions* by Per Westman and Jonas Paulsson, The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education
- *Open Higher Education in Estonia* by Aune Valk, Director of the Open University Centre at the University of Tartu.

News & Notices:

- ECSP European conference on scientific publishing in biomedicine and medicine. Oslo 2008-09-04—06
- Open Access to Nobel Prize awarded work – a Swedish pilot project
- Letter from The Association of Swedish Higher Education, the Swedish National Library, and the Swedish Research Council to the Minister for Education and Research, asking for the inclusion of Open Access policies in the forthcoming Research Bill

Articles 2008:4

- *The latest News*, by Ingegerd Rabow
- *Financing of the Norwegian Open Access Journals* by Else Dagfrid Bratland
- *Open Learning - Experiences and Paradox* by Gunnar Grepperud
- *The One Stop Shop to Open Access Journals – DOAJ* by Anna-Lena Johansson and Ingela Wahlgren
- *Producing connections between research data and publication* by Iris Alfredsson, Adam Brenthel, and Birger Jerlehag

- *Two Icelandic Open Repositories* by Sólveig Thorsteinsdóttir, Ingibjörg Sverrisdóttir, and Áslaug Agnarsdóttir

Articles 2009:1

- *News report from ScieCom Info. Edited by* Kristoffer Holmqvist
- *An Open Mind Towards Open Access Publishing - An Interview with Bo-Christer Björk* by Turid Hedlund
- *The Norwegian Research Council Adopts An Open Access Policy.* Jan Erik Frantsvåg
- *Greater Access to Norwegian Scientific Publications* by Sigrid Tollefsen
- *The Swedish Research Council and Open Acces* by Ingegerd Rabow
- *Lund University Supports Publishing in OA Journals* by Jörgen Eriksson, Lars Bjørnshau
- *Open Access and a University Library* by Heiki Epner
- *Experiences of Lithuanian DOAJ-Journals* by Meile Kretaviciene

Articles 2009:2

- *Open Minds - An interview with Rune Nilsen Professor of International Health The University of Bergen* by Ingrid Cutler
- *A Digitizing Project and Open Access Publishing of an Established National Journal* by Kai Halttunen
- *From Repository Manager Workshop to a Danish OA network: a report from the Danish OA day 31. March 2009* by Mikael K. Elbæk
- *Open access to scientific publications: the situation in Lithuania* by Jūratė Kuprienė, Žibutė Petrauskienė
- *Swedish Researchers Meet Open Access - Project Progress Report* by Peter Linde

Articles 2009:3

- *Danish Open Access Network (DOAN) - A new Open Access network established* by Adrian Price
- *Building a repository infrastructure for Finland* by Jyrki Ilva
- *The University of Iceland joins Skemman* by Áslaug Agnarsdóttir
- *Starting an Open Access Journal in Iceland* by Ian Watson
- *Creating a library service for scholarly open access journals* by Ingrid Cutler
- *The Focus on Publishing at the NTNU Library* by Ingar Lomheim
- *Open Minds – an interview with Gunnel Engwall, President of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities* by Jan Hagerli

Articles 2009:4,,,,,,,,,,,,,

- *Nordbib - a success story* by Jon Duke and Andy Jordan
- *The Danish experience of the Houghton studies: costs and benefits of alternative publishing models* by Mikkel Christoffersen
- *Free” Open Choice – beware of Greeks bearing gifts* by Jan Erik Frantsvåg

- ***Lund University supports publishing in OA journals: an examination*** by Jörgen Eriksson
- ***Greater access to scholarly publications from Copenhagen Business School - The CBS Open Access Policy 2009*** by Leif Hansen
- ***Open Access at Swedish Universities and University Colleges: From Headwind to Tailwind?*** By Peter Linde, Helena Stjernberg, and Aina Svensson
- ***Theseus.fi: Open Access Publishing in the Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences*** by Herkko Hietanen, Anna-Kaisa Sjölund
- ***Open Access: Maximising Research Quality and Impact seminar*** by Iryna Kuchma
- ***Report from the NOAP conference: Nordic Scientific and Scholarly journal publishing – interesting times (NSSJP)*** by Kristoffer Holmqvist

Appendix 3.

Marketing and distribution

Email distribution list *Sciecom info Nordic Baltic Forum on scientific Communication*

List used by the editor-in-chief for distributing information about new issues.

Nationa and international;

- *ScieCom info distribution list*
- *ScieCom-network*

International recipients:

AMERICAN-SCIENTIST-OPEN-ACCESS-FORUM@LISTSERVER.SIGMAXI.ORG

SPARC-OAForum@arl.org

boai-forum@ecs.soton.ac.uk

diglib@infoserv.inist.fr

ifla-l@infoserv.inist.fr

EAHIL-L@NIC.SURFNET.NL

SPARC-EUROPE-FORUM@JISCMAIL.AC.UK

liblicense-l@lists.yale.edu

nordoa@listservice.lub.lu.se

noap@listservice.lub.lu.se

Peter Suber peters@earlham.edu

NORDBIB Mikkel Christoffersen mch@bibliotekogmedier.dk

National recipients:

BIBLIST The Swedish national list for librarie/library staff

LUBLIST. Includes all librarie/librarians within the Lund University network

lublist@listservice.lub.lu.se

LUM . The Lund University journal lum@rektor.lu.se

The vice-chancellor of Lund University Per.Eriksson@rektor.lu.se

GU-journal The Gothenburg University journal

Aktum the Umea university journal

Sydsvenskan. Daily newspaper for southern Sweden, the culture section kultur@sydsvenskan.se

Universitetsläraren (SULF) (The University Teacher) Editor-in-chief Eva Rådahl er@sulf.se

The Swedish Association of University Teachers (SULF) kansli@sulf.se

The Swedish Research Council (VETENSKAPSRÅDET) vetenskapsradet@vr.se

The Swedish Research Council's publications':

- **Forska** [forska@vr.se/](mailto:forska@vr.se)
- **Forskning & Medicin.** forskningmedicin@vr.se
- **Tentakel** tentakel@vr.se
- **Tvärsnitt**
Editor: Helena Bornholm, helena.bornholm@vr.se
Publisher:: Arne Jarrick:, arne.jarrick@vr.se
Project Ragnhild Romanus: ragnhild.romanus@vr.se

Svensk Biblioteksforening (Swedish Library Association)
info@biblioteksforeningen.org

DIK Forum. Journal for the DIK Association, a professional trade union for academics within librarianship, documentation and culture
kansli@dik.se

Forskning.se (a national web portal for research information)
redaktionen@forskning.se

Svensk förening för informationsspecialister SFIS (Swedish Association for Information Specialists)
kansliet@sfis.nu

InfoTrend - Nordisk tidskrift för informationsspecialister.(Nordic Journal for Information Specialists) Editor: Peter Almerud peter.almerud@gmail.com

Human-IT, Tidskrift för studier av IT ur ett hmanvetenskapligt perspektiv,(Journal for information technology studies as a human science) human.it@hb.se

VETENSKAPSRADION (The Swedish Radio, the science radio) vet@sr.se

The Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF) Secretary General Bengt Karlsson
Bengt.Karlsson@suhf.se

NORDIC/BALTIC LISTS (not Sweden)

Used by editors for distributing information to local recipients, Combined with individual mails

Denmark

forskbib-l@net.uni-c.dk

Finland

The FinnOA list and blog

Iceland

skrudda@hi.is . A list for all the librarians and libraries in Iceland + others who are interested in libraries and are on the list.

Norway

norainfo@list.uit.no Goes to about 120 OA-interested people in Norway.

