

Open Access: Networks and knowledge dissemination in Nordic Asian Study Institutions. Phase 2-2009

Concluding report from the NIAS-NNC project to NORDBIB, October 2010

Project responsible:
Chief Librarian Anja Møller Rasmussen
NIAS Library and Information Centre
Leifsgade 33, 3 Floor
DK-2300 København S
+45 3532 9514
amr@nias.ku.dk
www.asiaportal.info

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Summary

Through the first phase we had identified issues and problems that we found important to address further in order to fulfil the goal and aim of the original project.

These were:

- The Nordic Asia Studies community has its own habits and expectations in publishing practice. The Open Access initiative needs to be harmonized with the existing experiences of this community.
- The understanding and thereby acceptance of Open Access is very limited among Nordic researchers. Misconceptions and misunderstandings of especially financial implications are common.
- Nordic institutions, including institutions with Asian Studies, have adopted Open Access policies and started building repositories and archives based on different incentives, systems, and standards. This is indeed a positive development, but to avoid double work, duplication of data and problems with verification, etc., it is necessary to create a flexible harvesting system and present the publications in a common Nordic Asian Studies context using AsiaPortal.info (see Appendix D). The harvesting methods developed by NIAS can act as a paradigm for others.
- Most of NIAS' partners do not have policies or tools for digitalizing their printed material. Therefore, huge amounts of interesting publications that might potentially be digitalized are still only on library shelves, hidden from wider view. NIAS should set up a trial project to identify small-scale digitalizing tools and methods.
- During the project period we have identified several useful and interesting projects and initiative that are useful for our project. However, we find that there is a great need for our project to act as coordinator putting experiences and findings from these projects to use in small disciplines. In this way, we provide an example and model for use by other small disciplines and environments
- Our end-user have expressed a growing interest in accessing information in context i.e. subject-oriented portals like AsiaPortal.info

Aims and results

The project's basic idea was to offer an integrated set of services to support Open Access publication, research communication and dissemination, and furthermore to increase visibility within the Nordic Asia research community.

The key concepts focus on promotion and awareness of open access to research outputs, financing models, harvesting methods and the relationship between institutional and subject repositories; identification of obstacles and needs for support functions in connection with parallel publishing, digitalization of older material, common access to databases and electronic journals and scientific collaboration among Nordic researchers and students.

Based on the vast and important experiences already obtained, the project's aim was to implement a Web-based set of tools that will significantly increase access to and visibility of Nordic Open Access publications. By using the Open Access platform Barha developed as part of the first phase as an integral part of AsiaPortal.info, and with further

development of the Nordic Asia Studies joint approach to Open Access and research communication, the project has illustrated how simple harvesting and re-publishing models can be used as a mean to solve the problems of information dissemination and exchange of research outputs in a subject discipline.

The project aimed to develop mechanisms to support the harvesting and digitisation of Asia-related material from institutional and national repositories for reuse or parallel publishing in a subject context.

Of especial interest is documents/material that scholars from participating institutions of the NIAS Nordic Council (NNC) wish to make publicly available through the AsiaPortal.info.

The first phase of the project proved how important it is to involve the research community in creating an efficient system for Open Access and the second phase has shown that a new approach; a new culture involving information sharing possibilities through Barha is needed if researchers is to understand the importance of sharing. As we still need to address the issues of how to motivate more knowledge sharing as part of the Open Access discussion Barha will be used in promoting knowledge sharing among Nordic researchers.

During the project period, NIAS have facilitated two workshops with the aim of discussing a joint NNC approach to Open Access and research communication. The first took place in June 2009 as a three-day technical workshop for librarians and others working with existing repositories and archives, its purpose is to engage different stakeholders in a discussion about challenges and possibilities for use of Asia scholarly publications stored in regional or local Open Access repositories.

The second workshop took place in November 2009 as a part of the annual NNC meeting for directors and researchers, and acted as a forum for presenting the possibilities and challenges of Open Access.

The project has ended up taken much longer than anticipated in the original project proposal and is still continuing based on funding from NNC and ØKs Jubilæumsfond.

Especially the development of standards and setup of an active Open Access exchange system including harvesting tools has proved to very difficult in practise; very few institutional repositories have developed or implemented the use of standards leaving us to harvest the relevant documents by hand. However, a working model for harvesting of publications and data based on the use of Delicuous.com and tagging has been developed and is in a beta testing mode. Based on recommendations from the two workshops in 2009 the creation and facilitation of useful Open Access financing and sponsoring models has been pushed to a European rather the Nordic level and models will be presented at three European conferences in 2011.

However, despite the difficulties and delay of the project's models it has been possible to set up a working harvesting model and the Nordic perspective at AsiaPortal now counts 811 documents from the 26 Nordic NNC institutions and 20 non members/national repositories either as links or as republished pdfs. Funded by ØK the digitisation part of the project is underway with 100 books from primarily NIAS Press and a model for negotiating change in copy right has been developed for this. These results will be presented in a report to ØK in 2011.

Target result as stated in the project proposal

1. Promoting Open Access to researchers and end-users including concrete recommendations about Open Access in support of Nordic Asia Research.
2. Setup of an active Open Access exchange system including harvesting and digitalization tools, which can act as a case study and model for other disciplines.
3. A working model for harvesting of publications and data describing the relationship between institutional repositories and subject-oriented repositories and portals.
4. Creation and/or facilitation of useful Open Access financing and sponsoring models.
5. Two workshops to facilitate the discussions and recommendations on a Nordic Asian Studies model for Open Access and Research Communication.
6. NNC Statement on Open Access to be signed by all member institutions.
7. Active participation from all member institutions in the Open Access Initiative.
8. Continuation of the strategic collaboration for the purpose of rendering access to Nordic Asian research and information through existing Nordic and European Portals.

Deliveries

Model for harvesting and republishing

During the project period, the vision for the project has been the development of a Nordic virtual research communication and knowledge sharing system for Asian Studies that will provide personalized and seamless end-user access to knowledge sharing and Open Access publishing facilities.

NNC's public Asian Studies portal called AsiaPortal.info plays a very important role in the dissemination of research outputs; the new system called Barha has been developed using the same platform.

During the project period, DEFF has ended its support to the portal platform and hosting system, however this has only expedited the decision on change of portal platform to include Open Access publishing paradigms and apply OAI standards and methodologies to the AsiaPortal set-up.

A new Portal with facilities for OA publishing and direct access from Barha will be inaugurated in January 2011.

It has been decided to use the LIBHUB software for hosting of Open Access documents from both Nordic and Asian repositories harvested manual or automated by NIAS staff, and Barha for self-publishing of documents through the use of social bookmarking using the tag (#NIASPubl) of relevant documents in Delicious.com done by the authors/researchers/librarians at NNC institutions them self and mediated/harvested by NIAS staff.

This is one of the ways how our network of researchers already are exchanging research information and knowledge and is therefore easy to explain and use for both parts in the process.

The model for the system is included as [Appendix 1](#)

Workshops

As part of the two workshops, the following has been discussed and/or developed:

1. Continuation of the promotion of Open Access to researchers and end-users:

- Workshop two facilitated discussions on the usefulness of Open Access based on incentives and assets for the researcher, creating a positive attitude towards institutional initiatives in harmonization with the existing experiences and traditions of the community.
- Made researchers aware of the different possibilities and equipped them to address their doubts about the credibility of Open Access journals and publishing models.
- Discussed the need for harmonizing of OA-models with the existing experiences of the community.
- Showed that the researchers have a lot to gain from the new possibilities for presenting research results (wider dissemination, better visibility, and thereby larger impact) through presentation of research in the context of the Nordic AsiaPortal.info and NIAS' research communication tool Barha.
- Let to a common understanding of Open Access and to the signing of the Nordic Asia Studies Open Access Collaboration Statement by NNC member institutions.

Open Access financing models:

- Workshop one presented and discussed different financing and sponsoring models with researchers, librarians, publishers, and institutions.
- Concrete financing models and sponsoring agreements was discussed, however a common solution has been left to be further discussed and developed in a European context in collaboration with EADI European Association for Development Institutions, the European Network of Chinese Librarians and European network of Southeast Asian Librarians. Models has been discussed during meetings in 2010 and will be presented at meetings in the networks in 2011. A common solution will be presented at EADI General Conference in York, UK September 2011. The solution is based on experiences from CERN.

Setup of an active Open Access exchange system:

- During workshop one a description of the relationship between institutional and subject repositories was developed.
- Overview of legal aspects affecting the harvesting and "linking in context" (especially concerning the rights of the author, the university/institute and the publisher)

- Facilitation of Open-Access publishing by pushing information onto public portals and other dissemination services.
- Enabling of source-wide search, sharing, and collaboration by the use of social networking features.
- Recommendations for a common protocol for interoperability.

Harvesting of publications and data:

- Facilitation of the use of common exchange standards like OAI-PMH and DL-harvest for better system interoperability, creating harvesting systems to match different platforms.
- Further development of Knowledge Organizing Systems (controlled metadata systems in NNC institutional repositories and archives).
- Harvester designed for pushing resources into the AsiaPortal.info.

Visibility of Nordic Asia research and scientific information:

- Marketing of possibilities for NNC member institutions through the AsiaPortal.info and the free electronic newsletter.
- Promotion of research material in an for the end-user understandable and well known subject context.
- Provision of unified searching across multiple systems and different formats of material, e.g. bibliographic records, full text, e-journals, and news together with Internet links and multimedia objects highlighting Open Access material.
- Digitalization of around 300 books and delivery of presentation tools facilitating open access to this unlocked material.
- Direct access to Open Access electronic information and tools such as dynamic reference and citation linking.

Case Models

- All findings and solutions will be available both as models to be used as inspiration by other groupings and disciplines and as publications and freely available open-source software.

Nordic and European cooperation

The project will continue to draw upon and collaborate with other Nordic and European initiatives, key partners being:

- Open Access: EADI Open Access and Knowledge Exchange.
- Visibility of Nordic research and researchers: FIV's World Affairs Online, the European portal project Cross Asia and EU's new Open Access pilot project through ENIRAS. Documents published or registered by the NNC will be placed on these portals and disseminated to a global readership.
- European Licenses: Cooperation with Statsbibliothek zu Berlin on purchase of licenses to Chinese and Japanese databases.

Model for digitisation of books

With support from ØKs JubilæumsFond a process for digitisation of books and documents has been created and 100 books from NIAS back catalogue are in the process of being scanned. A model for renegotiating copy rights has been tested and will be developed further as part of the "Licensing for Publishing" agreements.

Access to e-books has been created as part of AsiaPortal's academic resources and will be launched in January 2011.

Appendix 1

NNC Open Access Harvesting and publishing model

