Funding models for national journals transitioning to open access

The case of Norway

House of Science and Letters Helsinki, 17th of January 2019
National journals in SHH, historic background
Established in 1950 (Universitetsforlaget, Scandinavian University Press)

Developing new national (and international) journals portfolio together with academic societies and gradually developing an active acquisition policy

Strong academic tradition

1999 – The Taylor and Francis Group bought the international portfolio (60 international journals)

As from 2000 mainly publishing SSH journals and journals in law

SSH portfolio supported by the National Research Council since 1980’s
National journals in crises

- Gunnar Sivertsen (NIFU) wrote about the journals dilemma in 2011:
  - National disciplinary journals have a long tradition of communication with society
  - Now threatened by decreasing subscriptions and increasing needs for subsidies
  - Why not instead subsidize them to be completely open, thereby reinforcing their traditional societal role?
- Subscription decline
- Paper model slowly dying
- Increasing need for public funding
- Crises for the national journals
- 2004, establishing idunn.no, digitization
- Explosive growth in the number of downloaded articles
- Saved by the digitalization.
Digitalization and the quality aspect

- OsloMet: 15 journals
- UIO: 21 journals
- UIT: 15 journals
- UIB: 13 journals
- NTNU: 11 journals

75 journals published by the Norwegian Universities (Open Access, CC-By, Open journals System)
- Open journals system (OJS)
- “Open” is the goal, not the need for new journals
A study of 76 national SSH journals
A NIFU report from 2013 by Gunnar Sivertsen

- Contents
- Authors
- Roles in communication
- Proposal for a new business model
The Norwegian Model

Universities Norway (UHR) was set to implement a model for flipping the journals to OA.

UHR collaborated with the Research Council in Norway

Discussing the transition principles within different UHR-bodies (Research, Publishing and Library)

Final decisions in the national dean meetings in humanities and social sciences.
The solution

A narrow selection of only the central, most respected and most needed SSH journals publishing in Norwegian

No author payment

Funded partly by the government, partly by a consortium of research institutions that frequently publish in the journals

Monitored by a national panel appointed by the deans of the humanities and social sciences
Selecting journals by quality

- Overall - The quality of the journal (seen from the research community)
- Importance within the scientific field (share of the overall production figures)
- Language (Norwegian/Nordic/Other)
- Importance as an arena for dialog between the academic community and the public
- Strategic importance
Publishing committee

Representatives for social sciences:
Knut Nustad (Anthropology), Head of institute, University of Oslo
Karoline Daugstad (Geography), vice dean for research, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Turid Moldenæs (Political science), vice dean for research, The arctic university of Norway

Representatives for the humanities:
Anne Kristine Børresen (History), dean, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Elle Rees (Scandinavian studies), vice dean for research, University of Oslo
Margaret Hagen (Literature), Deputy Rector, University of Bergen

Secretariat:
Cristin, UNIT

Observers:
Universities Norway
The Norwegian Research Council
The Norwegian Research Council contributed with 5 mil

**The government contributed with 3,6 mil**

Four universities (UIO, UIB, NTNU og UIT, representing 80 % of the publications) contributed with 0,3 mil

Sum = 8,9 mil

NOK 300 000,- Cristin/administration

8,6 mil (include VAT, was sett aside to a consortia for purchasing national journals according to the guidelines).
For the period 2018 – 2020, 25 out of 41 journals were included

Acta Didactica Norge
Collegium Medievale
Din - Tidsskrift for religion og kultur
Edda
Heimen
Historisk tidsskrift
Internasjonal Politikk - Skandinavisk tidsskrift for internasjonale studier
Kunst og Kultur
Maal og minne
NLT - Norsk lingvistisk tidsskrift
NOA - Norsk som andrespråk
Nordisk tidsskrift for pedagogikk og kritikk

Norsk antropologisk tidsskrift
Norsk filosofisk tidsskrift
Norsk litteraturvitenskapelig tidsskrift
Norsk medietidsskrift
Norsk museumstidsskrift
Norsk sosiologisk tidsskrift
Norsk statsvitenskapelig tidsskrift
Studia Musicologica Norvegica
Teologisk tidsskrift
Tidsskrift for kjønnsforskning
Tidsskrift for kulturforskning
Tidsskrift for samfunnsforskning
Tidsskrift for velferdsforskning

Cristin/UNIT negotiate with publishers/journals and purchase titles to be included. Financing the consortia will (depend on allocations in the overall state budget) come from three sources: The ministry, The Research Council and the participation institutions.
Challenges

- Journals in Law and Education
- Other fields not represented in the consortia
- Commercial publishers and their cost
- Limited resources