Tracing the Emerging Open Access Landscape in Greece: Achievements, Challenges, Prospects

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This presentation

- OA landscape in Greece
- OA Work at the National Documentation Centre (EKT)
The emerging OA landscape

• Growing awareness on OA, but slowwwww....
  – Greece signatory of 2004 OECD Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding. Yet…. Only 4 institutions in Berlin Declaration
• Role of librarians
• Role of EU grants and digitization projects in changing SC
• Primarily IRs and OA journals, with steady growth.
• Funding: government and EU grants; sponsoring
• Major players in SC and OA: societies and academic institutions; private publishers not as active in e-publishing
• Major fields of e-publishing and OA: STM
• Increasing activities after 2006, 3 conferences on OA in 2008
• EKT’s portal www.openaccess.gr launched in 2008
• www.openarchives.gr, a federated search engine harvesting from Greek digital collections (private enterprise)
• 2009 OA report on Greece, prepared by HEAL-link for SELL
Achievements

- Large number of digitized and openly accessible documents, cultural and research along with the infrastructures to host them (IRs, Journals etc)
- Increasing number of OA journals and IRs, approximately half of the 33 universities have one; 26 journals in DOAJ
- Tendency of online peer-reviewed journals, particularly e-only, to be OA. Medicine dominant
- Increasing awareness and use of open-source software for implementing OA projects, especially DSpace and OJS, and of significance of OAI-PMH
- Increasing awareness on e-research and publishing, lots of interest in the Humanities
Challenges

- Fragmented efforts prevent from obtaining maximum visibility and impact of material, as well as operational capabilities and sustainability
- Not great interest on part of researchers
  - Still reservations towards digital scholarship and scientific legitimacy of e-publishing, perceived threat towards disappearance of print materials
  - Lack of knowledge and understanding of IP issues
  - Lack of understanding of significance of benefits of OA
  - Lack of understanding of self-archiving
  - Researchers in natural sciences publish in foreign journals, so they mostly don’t care
- IRs sparsely populated, mostly with grey literature
- Most IRs not clear about policies in general, IP in particular
- Lack of policies at institutional and government (funding agencies) level
- Lack of emphasis on business models to ensure sustainability of infrastructures and publications
- Lack of provisions for long-term preservation
- Some IRs, journals still not OAI-PMH compliant
Prospects

• More active campaigning and information towards researchers, but also towards policy-makers to increase OA research, visibility and impact of research carried out in Greece

• More projects on OA publishing, special interest in e-books (mostly EU and national funding)

• Systematic actions directed towards preserving data and ensuring viability of projects

• More collaboration among institutions, combining forces and specialities to achieve maximum potential

• Increase of institutional and governmental policies on access to scientific information
The National Documentation Centre (EKT): identity

• Founded 1980
• Part of National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF)
• NHRF: oldest research centre in Greece (founded 1948) comprising 6 RCs, 3 Humanities +3 Sciences
The National Documentation Centre (EKT): identity

- Research and technology content and services, most importantly:
  - By law maintains The National Archive of PhD Theses
  - Develops infrastructures for preservation and dissemination of scholarly output: repositories and e-journals
  - Union catalogues of journals that Greek Academic Libraries subscribe, municipal libraries etc.
  - Home-grown software for library automation (2200 installations)
  - Digitization services for cultural and scientific content
  - Development of CRIS - research results dissemination
- Services for the academic/research community:
  - International cooperation, Enterprise Europe Network, National Contact Point for FP7, research metrics extraction
  - Information on research and technology developments (newsletters, print and online)
  - Disseminate information on open access: [www.openaccess.gr](http://www.openaccess.gr)
  - Has developed small-scale, but growing, not for profit scholarly e-publishing activities in the Humanities
OA @EKT

Goals

• Increase support for OA in Greece by establishing infrastructures such as repositories and e-journals that afford digitization, safeguarding and free world-wide dissemination of the scientific output produced at NHRF
• Promote the research output of NHRF and Greece, and research carried out in the Greek language
• Co-funded by the EU (3rd Community Support Framework) and national competitive grants; part of a larger project “National Information System of Research and Technology”
OA projects and initiatives

• OA journals in the Humanities (transitioned from print to combo model)
  – 3 peer-reviewed, international
  – 2 newsletters
• OA repositories
  – “Helios” - NHRF institutional repository- (http://helios-eie.ekt.gr/)
  – “Pandektis” - disciplinary repository in the Humanities (http://pandektis.ekt.gr/dspace/)
  – National Archive of PhD Theses (http://phdtheses.ekt.gr/)
• Information portal: www.openaccess.gr
• OA blog: www.openaccess.gr/blog
• Participation in larger European projects and initiatives: eg: OpenAire; Europeana; DART Europe; DRIVER; EuroCRIS etc.
Byzantina Symmeikta

- [www.byzsym.org](http://www.byzsym.org)
- Byzantine Studies
- First published (print) in 1966
- Languages: Greek, English, French, German and Italian
The Historical Review/La Revue Historique

- [www.historicalreview.org](http://www.historicalreview.org)
- Contemporary history (mainly Greek)
- First published (print) in 2004
- Languages: English, French
- Indexed by ISI
Tekmeria

- [www.tekmeria.org](http://www.tekmeria.org)
- Studies in Greek and Roman antiquity
- First published (print) in 1995
- Languages: Greek, English, French, German and Italian
Significant information

– All in DOAJ (full), Google Scholar etc
– Ca. 540 back-issue articles digitized; ca. 60% of that OA; material in Greek language OCR’d
– All new content OA
– Editorial Improvements and standardization (editorial boards; explicit policies and processes; author contracts; author maintain rights; CC licenses; guidelines for authors, reviewers)
– Editorial Innovation in BS (per article publication)
– But….only BS uses OJS for entire editorial process
Achievements

• Significant contribution to transitioning research and publishing culture to online medium in the Humanities. Spurred the interest of researchers in e-publishing and OA
• Maintained and even raised the scientific standards of journals
• Consistently increase of readership around the world for the peer-reviewed journals
• Broadened the pool of potential authors and reviewers
• Increased interest by societies and academic institutions to take over their journals
• Performed customizations necessary to accommodate publishing in the Greek language (improvement of Greek translation of OJS, OCR, extensions of metadata appropriate to discipline etc-contributions to OJS)
• Operational and technical expertise and scalable infrastructures
National Archive of PhD Theses

- [http://phdtheses.ekt.gr/](http://phdtheses.ekt.gr/)
- Ca. 24,500 theses total
- 15,000+ theses on line
- 1200-1400 new dissertations each year
- Infrastructure transitioned to DSpace, project completed in 2010
- Data source for DART Europe and the European Working Group of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations (NDLTD)
- Future goals:
  - Self-archiving
  - IP issues
Helios

- 4085 accessible entries, ca. 1/3 full, OA records, old and very recent papers
- The only IR of a RC in Greece
- Future goals:
  - Initiate and facilitate self-archiving process!!
  - Enhance services and make depositing in the IR more appealing
  - Continue campaigning for institutional policies on OA that include at least depositing metadata in ‘Helios’
Pandektis

- [http://pandektis.ekt.gr/dspace](http://pandektis.ekt.gr/dspace)
- ca 40,000 records
- All OA, primary material
- Future plans:
  - Enhance functionality
  - Add content
  - More services for researchers, educators
As for all monuments of cultural heritage, permission from the Greek Ministry of Culture is required for the reproduction of photographs of the inscriptions.
Launched 4/2008
info on OA and OA@EKT
Directed to Greek audiences
Basics on OA
Specialized information
News and events
+blog 5/2010
ITHAKA recently published the "Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey: Strategic Insights for Libraries, Publishers, and Societies", which examines faculty attitudes towards the transition to a digital research environment, the influence of digital technologies on research and their use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) by librarians, publishers, and societies.

Ithaka is a U.S.-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping the academic and scientific community use digital technologies to preserve the scholarly record and to advance research and learning. Ithaka's survey is the latest in a series of surveys that began in 2000, and is the most comprehensive survey to date. The survey was conducted in 2009 on 351 universities and colleges in the United States.

The survey focused on three major issues:
1. Information discovery and the学术
2. The format transition for scholarly work
3. Scholarly communications

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**27 US research institutions back the Federal Research Public Access Act**

**21/05/2010**

Presidents and provosts of 27 large private and public research universities in the United States lend their support to the Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) in an "Open Letter to the Higher Education Community". The signatories include the following prestigious institutions, among others: Harvard University, Princeton, Stanford, Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, Cornell, Ohio State University.

The Bill is now being considered in the Congress and, if it passes, it will oblige federal research funding agencies with a budget more than 100 million dollars a year to provide the public with access to publications created with their funding. The Bill would also require that the author or researchers own rights to their work and that they are free to publish in any open access publication.

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**Open Access Models for eBooks in the Humanities and Social Sciences**

**14/04/2010**

The European project Open Access Publishing in European Networks (OAPEN) recently released a study entitled 'Overview of Open Access Models for eBooks in the Humanities and Social Sciences'. A variety of relevant initiatives were examined with respect to their publishing models, business models, and publishing processes. While OA book publishing may still be in a nascent state, the steady increase in experiments reflects the need for new and sustainable business models in HSS monograph publishing, as well as, occasionally, an ideological motivation to open up scholarship to wider audiences.

The OAPEN project has examined a wide variety of publishing models, business models, and publishing processes were examined among the numerous initiatives that form the core of the study. Most commonly, such initiatives are dominated by university-based cross-collaborations, usually library-press collaborations. Business models aim at cutting costs and creating efficiencies by introducing digital publishing.
Future Plans-Challenges

• Further develop journals in the Humanities in collaboration with societies, academic and research institutions
• Expand to other research areas
• Expand to e-books (NHRF Humanities output ca. 300 monographs)
• Formalize our operational and technical expertise as a scholarly e-press in collaboration with research institutions and launch an integrated academic publishing environment
• Enhance online services of journals and repositories (user experience; search function, forward linking; new formats (e.g. epub); data inclusion; build research tools on repositories)
• Continue engaging researchers to ensuring flourishing of e-publishing activities
• Continue campaigning for OA among researchers, academic institution leaders and policy-makers
• Investigate business models for sustainability of e-publishing projects
**OA@Greece and OA@EKT**

- www.openaccess.gr
- www.openarchives.gr

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Thank you!

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