

SONAR – Swiss Open Access Repository

OA-Tage 2019

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The Situation of OA in Switzerland

- Structure of HE institutions: complex
 - Federal institutions: 2 federal institutes of technology
 - Cantonal institutions: 10 universities, 7 networks of universities of applied sciences (plus "university of applied sciences Graubünden" from 01/01/2020), 17 teacher training colleges
 - Other research institutions (federal and cantonal)
 - *swissuniversities* as umbrella organisation
 - Two main national funding bodies: Swiss National Science Foundation, Innosuisse

The Situation of OA in Switzerland

- Structure of the library system: complex as well
 - Several library consortia, some interconnected, some not
 - Project SLSP (Swiss Library Service Platform) aims to form one library platform for all HE libraries in 2021 (Will it work? We'll see)
 - Some consortia solely academic, some include every library (academic, public, school, cantonal) in one or more cantons
 - Larger university libraries tend to have established OA-offices, repositories, policies - smaller ones (e.g. universities of applied sciences) tend not too

The Situation of OA in Switzerland

- Structure of OA-infrastructure: complex (surprise)
 - Several institutions have issued OA strategies
 - SNSF: all publications funded by the SNSF must be OA by 2020
 - swissuniversities: all publicly funded publications must be OA by 2024
 - e.g.: ETH Zurich OA policy "supports the open access movement and the corresponding demands"
 - Others have not: Innosuisse (main research funding body for universities of applied sciences) has no OA-policy

The Situation of OA in Switzerland

- Résumé
 - OA situation unclear
 - Big institutions tend to support OA, smaller ones do not
 - Switzerland is a federal country, this shows in the system of funding of science and support of OA as well ('Kantönligeist')
 - There is no reliable data on the advance of Open Access

Aims and Project Plan of SONAR

- SONAR aims to build a system that
 - offers a metahub of OA-publications in Switzerland
 - provides data for the analysis of the advancement of Open Access in Switzerland
 - provides an OA-infrastructure for smaller scientific institutions and / or independent publications
- Funding: *swissuniversities* (first funding period 2019-2020)

Aims and Project Plan of SONAR

- RERO (project management)
 - Library network and IT service provider
 - Runs the current multi-institutional repository RERO DOC
- HEG Genève
 - Research team in data and text mining
- Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano
 - Current user/client of RERO DOC
- University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, Chur
 - Analytics

Work done

- Technical base of the repository: Invenio
- Basic analysis of the existing data in swiss OA-repositories
- Overview of comparable work done in other European countries
- Work on automatic metadata ingestion from PDF-sources

Problems and Challenges

- Well... the usual
 - Data integration from different data sources: always a hassle
 - Quality of data: inconsistent
 - Metadata and indexing: varies
 - Coverage of actual publication through the existing repositories: unknown (i.e. proportion of all published research deposited in institutional repositories)

Problems and Challenges

- Special challenges
 - SONAR needs to have a business model by the end of the funding period
 - Idea of "automating everything" vs. the reality
 - Stakeholders' objectives differ (*swissuniversities*, HE libraries, HE institutions, scholars)

Why not just copy everything?

- Why not just copy solutions from Germany, Austria, the Netherlands etc?
 - SONAR is funded by *swissuniversities* > needs to be a national solution
 - Landscape of HE institutions in Switzerland (as everywhere else) is special > technical solutions can be adapted, but the crucial work is "political"
 - Everybody has the same challenges, nobody has a satisfactory answer > we use it as chance to try some different things, even if we'll end up with the same problems at the end

Why not just copy everything?

- This is an exercise in infrastructure building
 - The established actors did not want to build it
 - swissuniversities
 - Wants to have it, funds it;
 - but does not really know, what "it" should be and should provide
 - A new player (in this field, RERO) has accepted the challenge
- We use the time to think about new ways of doing things, even though most of them will fail

Critique of Concept

- If SONAR had been launched in 2004, it would have been a much more centralised system
 - Today: All universities and some universities of applied sciences have, by now, established their own IRs
 - SONAR duplicates quite a lot of existing infrastructure

Critique of Concept

- But since then competence in OA has been built up in a lot of places in Switzerland (e.g. OA-offices in most universities, knowledge within some research funders)
 - SONAR aims to build a solution which brings this together; maybe this is the way things work in Switzerland
 - Competition between academic institutions is fostered, as well as networking between institutions
 - Other projects (e-rara.ch, e-manuscripta.ch) have been built up in a similar manner

Merci

(<https://sonar.ch>)

[cc by-nc 4.0]

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