

Institutional Policy for Open Access to Scientific Publications

The Centre's compliance to open access principles

The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (NOKC) encourages communication and exchange of the research results from our institutional activities, to increase their visibility and impact in the whole scientific community and to enable the development of new standards for research evaluation. This intent is achieved by compliance with the principles of Open Access to research literature and through the most advanced techniques of registration and dissemination of digital data.

The NOKC is a signatory of the Berlin Declaration on open access to scientific knowledge (http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlin_declaration.pdf) and of the Petition to the European Commission in support of the open and free access to the results of research supported by public funds (<http://www.ec-petition.eu/>).

Open Access to the research literature can be achieved in two complementary ways: 1) publication in OA journals, and 2) archiving of publications in digital repositories compliant with the OAI-PMH specifications.

HeRA – Helsebiblioteket's Research Archive

In compliance with OA principles, Helsebiblioteket.no, drifted by NOKC, has created an online digital repository (<http://hera.helsebiblioteket.no/>) which functions as the institutional archive for NOKC's publications, guaranteeing Open Access and long term preservation of research results.

HeRA contains all the scientific works produced by the research staff at NOKC (authorised for archiving following an internal procedure) published at a national and international level. The data contained in the repository are bibliographic data (metadata) of the publications, along with full texts. The NOKC policy applies mainly to peer-reviewed publications, but sometimes researchers may wish to include non-peer-reviewed material in HeRA. The peer-reviewed status of each publication deposited is clearly shown and it is possible to search HeRA only for peer-reviewed material if desired.

HeRA is also a digital platform which hosts collections of documents produced by Norwegian hospitals and other research institutions operating within medicine, public health and related disciplines.

Guidelines for HeRA <http://hera.helsebiblioteket.no/hera/pages/guidelines.html>

Archiving in HeRA

All scientific works produced by the NOKC staff must be transmitted in electronic format (author's final copy, after peer-review: «post-print») to the Publishing Activities Unit of NOKC, at the moment of acceptance for publication. This Unit will as soon as possible make the publication visible in Frida, HeRA and on the NOKC internet homepage including metadata and fulltext when possible. If the publisher claims an embargo period for the publication, the publication will be archived with embargo date. This ensures that the publication will be available in fulltext the day when embargo period expire. During the embargo period, individual works can be requested from the authors by direct contact as today.

The instructions for the transmission of the documents for the digital archive are detailed in the «Procedures for publication management». This also contains instructions for partner institutions of HeRA.

Oslo, 25 November 2008


John Arne Røttingen
Chief Executive of The Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services.