Europe's Open Access Champions

Inspiration from influential European academics on Open Access & what still needs to be done

“Stop discriminating against Open Access publications in research evaluation”
Prof Diana Šimić

“Open Access depends on us professors!”
Prof Dr Rolf-Ulrich Kunze

“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”
Prof Rune Nilsen

“I hope that the publishing industry becomes an enabler of open”
Dr Jenny Molloy

“I would like to see more intense competition on price and service”
Prof Stephen Curry

“Senior researchers can set the good example and encourage our young researchers to take the OA route”
Alain Beretz

ABOUT
Much work is being done by European scholars to change the hearts and minds of their peers towards more Openness. As an international foundation, SPARC Europe is sharing the stories of a range of Europe’s Champions actively contribute to advocating and implementing new open scholarship principles and practices within their organisation’s research communities. Champions can be research administrators,

LIBRARIES
Libraries are increasingly working together with the academic community to provide more Open Access to Europe’s research. What have they learnt from engaging with their champions?
Background

- 22 champions from 8 countries with 4 more to join soon
- From the 6 large disciplines
- Incl. 4 senior university managers (presidents/vice-chancellors), 10 professors, 4 early career researchers
- Online in March 2016
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CHAMPIONS
Champions actively contribute to advocating and implementing new open scholarship principles and practices within their organisation’s research communities. Champions can be research administrators, librarians, or other academics.

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Champions

Prof Rune Nilsen
Professor Emeritus in Global Health
University of Bergen
Norway
“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”

Dr Jenny Molloy
Co-ordinator of the Synthetic Biology SRI & OpenPlant and manager of ContentMine
University of Cambridge
UK
“I hope that the publishing industry becomes an enabler of open”

Prof Jørn Harald Hurum
Professor of Paleontology
University of Oslo
Norway
“Only peer review Open Access publications”

Prof Stephen Curry
Professor of Structural Biology
Imperial College London, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Life Sciences
UK
“I would like to see more intense competition on price and service”
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Home » Champions » Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences

“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”

Name: Prof Rune Nilsen
Position: Professor Emeritus in Global Health
Expertise: Open Access, University politics, Global health
Institution: University of Bergen
Country: Norway
More info: Home Page

An interview with Prof Rune Nilsen on 23 November 2015

What got you originally interested in Open Access (OA) and how did it evolve?

What is your hope or vision for more Open Access to research?

What are the main challenges for more Open Access, in your opinion?

What can libraries do to promote openness to research?

What still needs to be done to provide more Open Access to research?

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Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences

openscholarchampions.eu/champions/fightacademicapartheid/

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Expertise: Open Access, University politics, Global health
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An interview with Prof Rune Nilsen on 23 November 2015

What got you originally interested in Open Access (OA) and how did it evolve?

As a child, I grew up in a small industrial town where the idea of solidarity was fundamental. My involvement in global communication began as an amateur radio enthusiast as a teenager. In the late 1960s, as a student, I became influenced by the student riots in Europe and the USA. There was optimism, and a hope for change.

After my PhD in 1981 I started collaborating with research partners in Sudan, Tanzania and Ethiopia in the area of health. At that time, I also got involved in research strategy and university politics. It was when I started working at the high-level Armaker Hansen Research Institute in Ethiopia that I realised that, despite a good research library, local researchers and students did not have access to the research literature they needed. The Institute had sufficient funds to subscribe to what they needed, but was seen as an unreliable customer by leading international publishing houses. This is where I first encountered ‘academic apartheid’: where institutions in low-income countries do not have the same rights to research literature. So I got the Institute to transfer money to the University of Bergen, which in turn transferred payments to the
What still needs to be done

• strong and knowledgeable academic leadership is needed to
  • mandate Open Access
  • to take on the publishers
What still needs to be done

• ensure all papers are available in durable, well-indexed open repositories

• recognise that IR deposit is part of the publishing process
What still needs to be done

• change the publishing system:
  from flip the system to wipe the slate clean
  – re-focus on papers & support OA journals

• voice concerns regards business practices

• stop subscribing to big deals

• support OLH /arXiv and the like

• fight the trend in commercialising research!
What still needs to be done

• create **open research environments**

• **teach** the mechanics of sharing and the choices that Open Science offer
What still needs to be done

• have **legislation** that supports OA

• consider research *dissemination* as a research responsibility

• consider **OA publications** in the evaluation of researchers
PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES SHARED THEIR LESSONS LEARNT
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Engagement

The knowledge on the following pages comes from European academic libraries that have engaged with the Open Access champions highlighted on this site. They share their lessons learnt in three specific areas:

- How to get champions involved
- How to keep your champions engaged and informed
- What makes a good champion?

Are you using champions as much as you’d like? Here is a list of persons and libraries that have shared their champions and their experiences with us. They might be able to help you further.
How do you engage with the right champion?

“Target the **best person** to help **achieve the goal**, be it for policy development, the implementation of new mandates, or new infrastructure.”
A good OA champion ...

- can discern facts from myths
- has the skill to discuss an emotive topic
- the ability to navigate the complex discussion on scholarly communication with clarity and engages in debate
A good OA champion ...

- **understands** what Open Access is both as a reader and a publisher
- **advocates** the concepts of OA in their local research communities and **helps others do so**
- can **talk as equals with a range** of researchers, managers or administrators from junior to senior / positive to hostile
A good OA champion, above all ...

- is convinced that OA is the better way for scientific communication
- trusts in the impact of value in all research outputs
- has the courage to go against the establishment
- provides libraries with active roles in OA and recognises their important roles
What we can do

1. **Engage** with our champions and continue to do so, and **adopt new ones** for specific goals

2. **Actively utilise** the messages and knowledge gained in our advocacy work

3. Get our champions **on film**

4. **Bring them together**
More Europe’s Open Access Champions please
www.openscholarchampions.eu

NEW: Europe’s Open Data Champions

Will you join us?

vanessa@arl.org