

Editorial

THE FUTURE OF OPEN ACCESS

First a very positive message – the journal has got support from *Nordic Publications Committee for Humanist and Social Sciences Periodicals* (NOP-HS) for 2011, which means that we are accepted among Nordic academic journals¹. We will get support for translations, and closer contacts among the members of the editorial board. But the basic funding has still to be developed.

There is an important comment on language policies from the reviewers. Today we accept articles in any Nordic language and in English. So far there are articles in Danish, Norwegian, Swedish and English. The reviewers point to the strong international interest in Nordic Early Childhood research, and underline the need for more articles in English – and we agree.

The future funding of *Nordisk barnehageforskning* is under development. We work for a solution where one part is direct editorial contribution from the *Research Network Barnehageliv*.

Another component is to get support from academic institutions who pay a *yearly fee* of NOK 5000. A few universities have already accepted to do so, but we need support from more higher education institutions.

In the long run *publication fees* will most likely be the solution. But this is debated, and we have no fees so far. Among strong supporters of publication fees are the founders of an *Open Access Compact*² in 2009: Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the University of California, Berkeley. The basic idea is that the universities pay publication fees up to \$3000 yearly, if no research grants are available. You may still publish without paying any fee, by asking for a fee waiver. There are many initiatives of this kind, and one instance in Norway is at the University of Tromsø.

A most profound support for Open Access is the recent decision by the Swedish Research Council³, *Vetenskapsrådet*, which demands that all articles, from projects with their support, have to publish in Open Access journals or in journals that accept post-publication of articles.

There is a whole new market for Open Access solutions. Publishers show a strong interest in Open Access, for instance *Springer*⁴ has developed different models for publication fees.

In Medicine and Science publication fees are accepted as an integral part of Open Access, while Social Science and the Humanities might be questioning the idea. Our view is that publication fees is a necessary solution, if well organized and financed by the higher education system, as in the five universities' compact. The simple reason is that publication fees offers a flexible and sustainable support also for independent Open Access journals.

We call for a debate on the future of independent Open Access journals on policies and funding among all readers and authors, but also with stakeholders in higher education.

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NOTES

1. NOP-HS: http://nos.net.dynamicweb.dk/NOP-HS_forside.aspx
2. Harvard and the Open Access Compact: <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/09/harvard-joins-in-support-for-open-access-publication/>
3. Vetenskapsrådet, Sverige: <http://www.vr.se/franvetenskapsradet/nyheter/myhetsarkiv/nyheter2010/nyheter2010/publiceringmedopenaccesssagardet-till.5.28ca860b1293e247fc480006540.html>
4. Springer: <http://www.springer.com/open+access?SG-WID=0-169302-0-0-0>