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ALLEA Activity Open Access and Scholarly Publishing
Towards a better visibility of European Sciences and Humanities

ALLEA Extraordinary Strategy Meeting
Amsterdam, 16-17 November 2009
Background

- Almost all Member Academies are also scholarly publishers;

- ALLEA survey 2009 will create overview over state-of-the-art (formats; publishing in national language; distribution; Open Access policies etc.)

- Joint ALLEA-PAN conference (May 2010): working title “Transparency in science, open access, and publication bias”
Case Study: Humanities

Characteristics

- Publishing of journals in mother tongue
- Publishing of monographs, edited volumes, series, conference proceedings
- Almost all Member Academies

Problems

- Not always peer-reviews (quality control)
- Difficulties in access (distribution; language)
- No commonly agreed reference databases
Case Study: Humanities

European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH)

- 15 international panels in disciplinary areas of the Humanities establish lists of journals that conform to quality criteria (incl.: peer review)

Problems

- So far: only journals, not monographs, conferences etc.
- So far underrepresentation of Central and Eastern Europe
- So far no pro-active encouragement to Open Access
Elements for an ALLEA Activity on Scholarly Publishing and Open Access

Following the survey, joint actions can be identified, for example:

- **Quality assurance**: workshop on best practice in scientific publishing to prepare journals for full Open Access (capacity building: share experiences; exchange with other networks); other publications could follow;

- **Understanding of the core issues**: conference (prepared by PAN and ALLEA for May 2010: “Transparency in science, open access, and publication bias”).

- **Awareness raising**: workshops with scholars (in the Sciences and especially in the Humanities) to explain the benefits and difficulties of Open Access publishing (perhaps region specific: Central and Eastern Europe);

- **Cost models**: exchange with existing OA publishers’ (for journals and monographs) to identify appropriate cost models;
Elements for an ALLEA Activity on Scholarly Publishing and Open Access (related areas)

Ensure constant flow of updated information on relevant projects, such as:

- **Research data** management and policies (link: ethics project <research integrity> and new project <research infrastructures>);
- OA in the other fields of scholarly publishing (**monographs**; open reviews; linkage between publication and raw data);
- **Digital repositories** (institutional or field specific), **research information systems** and publications;
- **National languages** as languages of research / science (or reduced to Social Sciences and Humanities?)
- **Translation** funds for scientific works?