The European National Academies as academic publishers

SCH Workshop “Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities”
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 27-28 November 2009
Academies of Sciences and Humanities in the European research landscape

- **debate:** as learned societies exchange of ideas on research and research-related issues;
- **advise:** as “think tanks” address science policy and topical societal issues;
- **support (for excellence):** award grants, fellowships and prizes and are involved in evaluation;
- **promote:** science communication, science education and outreach;
- **produce:** research institutes and infrastructures

Rüdiger Klein
27 November 2009, HAS/SCH Publication Cultures
**ALLEA Membership:**

- 53 national academies from 40 countries (Council of Europe)
- Founded in 1994

- Interacts with global inter-academy networks, including:
  - IAP/IAC (science academies only)
  - UAI: Union Académique Internationale (classical Humanities)
Changing publication cultures
(some of the questions at the origin)

- The role of scholarly monographs in evaluations of Humanities
  (< focus on journals elsewhere; wrong focus for ERIH?)
- New assessment regimes leave
  (< less and less time for production and consumption of monographs: authorship / readership)
- Internationalisation of “science” (also: global Humanities)
  (< role of national languages?)
- Technological advances (< digital revolution)
  (> changing reading habits, changing hermeneutics?)
  (> return to hunter-gatherer humanities?)
Changing publication cultures
(some of the subsequent reflections)

- Change:
  - time: “half-life” (interdisciplinarity?);
  - place: global Humanities <connectedness> (national foundations?)
    -- actors: authors; readership (impact?); “publishers”

- Publication: publishing & public
  (scholarly / scientific communication)

- Culture:
  - proposal
  - product
Changing framework conditions

ALLEA’s semi-permanent expert Standing Committees and goal-oriented Working Groups...

- reflect on / analyse the changing framework conditions for “doing research” in Europe;
- make recommendations to political domain (and sometimes to scientific communities themselves);
- elaborate and propose tools developed “by scientists for scientists” to ensure the scientific domain continues as much as possible to be self-regulated (e.g.: science ethics; IPR; evaluation etc.).

In this context:
- Work on research infrastructures;
- Work on scholarly publishing and Open Access

Challenging framework conditions for Humanities publishing in Europe
Data:

- survey of 53 Member Academies on scholarly publishing (still running; as yet incomplete)
- discussions among MA’s on Open Access (critical issues: role of learned societies; apparently unresolved IPR–related matters)
- some insights into national debates
Academies as academic publishers (some patterns):

- practically all 53 Member Academies are engaged in scholarly publishing (depending on types, also in the Humanities)
  [HU: since 1828; since 1996 with WoltersKluwer; 59 journals, textbooks]
- practically all MA’s also publish monographs in the respective national languages
  [in several cases this is part of their mission]
- most MA’s run scholarly publishing not as profit-making exercise
  [important exception (and brake on joint OA activity) UK: journals published by the Royal Society of London]
  [LT: income stays within publishing unit]
  [exchange networks: AT over 1,000 partners in 82 countries]
Academies as academic publishers (some more patterns):

- most MA’s typically very small publishing divisions
- many MA’s practice some forms of outsourcing
  [NL: totally decentralised, despite ECPA]
- many “research performing” MA’s leave publishing activities to their institutes
  1.000’s of publications
  (> based on central or competitive acquired grants)
  [BG: varying quality, but also including highest standards (CMRC)]
- many MA’s struggle with lack of central support under conditions of changing publication environments
Academies as academic publishers (still more patterns):

- few MA’s are engaged in publishing/publisher networks:
  - Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
  - European Association of Science Editors
  - Federation of European Publishers
  - International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers
  - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
  - etc.

- typically only one per network

- Inconsistent efforts to have journals included in relevant databases and indices

- poor to no exchange of knowledge on scholarly publishing among MA’s
Academies as academic publishers (some patterns re Open Access and related issues):

- many MA’s (but by far not all) have discussed, few have signed up to relevant declarations, few practice or actively encourage OA publishing (practically never for monographs) [encourage: financial and/or technical support; debates and training]
[DE: Working Group electronic publishing; CH; AT: manual; e-books]
- Few academy publishers have functioning relationship with relevant digital repositories (very few have significant DR’s themselves) [EE: transfer of digital data to national library] [CEJSH]
[SE (KVHAA): pdf to author with encouragement to enter it into DR]
- Practically no MA has reflected on / acted on possible link between publishing activity and research infrastructures: linguistics; archaeology etc.
Challenging framework conditions for Humanities publishing in Europe and the role of the National Academies

- Can Academies make better use of the technological advances (OA; DR; RI): sharing experiences?
- Can Academies develop new models for financing scholarly monographs: research performing agencies?
- Can Academies develop evaluation frameworks that do not discourage the use of national languages for Humanities, while improving international visibility of Humanities research (linguae francae)?
- Can Academies define appropriate quality criteria for good outreach publications (wider appeal of Humanities as equivalent of “science & society” remit in the hard sciences)?