Open Access at ETH Zurich: Experiences and Challenges
Impact of Open Science on research careers, swissuniversities, 05.09.2017

Dr Rafael Ball, Director of ETH Library, ETH Zurich
AGENDA

1. Open Access at ETH Zurich
2. Open Access Survey 2017
3. Road Map and Further Steps
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2. Open Access Survey 2017
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What has happened so far at ETHZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Signing of Berlin Declaration on Open Access</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Open Access policy for ETHZ</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Open Access becomes mandatory for doctoral theses</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Signing of LERU Initiative “Christmas is Over”</td>
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<td>Since 2016</td>
<td>Involvement in the National Open Access Strategy</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>swissuniversities signs OA2020 Initiative</td>
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OA services at ETHZ

ETH Library services

- **Green Road**: OA repository Research Collection
- **Golden Road**: payment of article processing charges (APCs) at BioMed Central, SpringerOpen, PLOS, Copernicus, MDPI, Frontiers und Wiley
- Consulting on copyright issues
- Consulting on OA specifications from funding organisations
- Webinars, workshops & information events

1. Open Access at ETH Zurich
Some figures on OA at ETH Zurich

- **Green Road**
  A total of 164'400 entries in the ETH Research Collection, thereof 21'300 fully accessible full texts.

- **Golden Road**
  About 15% of peer-reviewed journal literature published in Open Access journals.

- **All doctoral theses**
  Deposited in the ETH Research Collection. Approximately 70% published immediately, approximately 30% within 1-3 years.

[Source: Web of Science]
Current status of OA policy at ETHZ

OA policy at ETH Zurich from 2008

- All publications accepted in a peer reviewed journal, doctoral theses and other research results should be published OA in ETH E-Collection (now: Research Collection) as soon as possible
- All researchers are encouraged to publish in a suitable Open Access journal; ETH Zurich will cover the publishing fees, such as APCs.
The new OA policy

- Reasons for the revision:
  - Major developments in OA, library systems and publishing since 2008
  - Superordinate framework for Switzerland by adopting swissuniversities and SNF OA strategies
  - In preparation for this: OA survey at ETH Zurich by ETH Library in 2017
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## Framework of the survey

### Objectives
- Widespread information about Open Access
- Find out about attitudes, experiences and expectations among ETH Zurich Scientists
- Launch a broader discussion
- Start implementation strategy

### Methodology
- Online survey among the entire scientific staff at ETH Zurich
- Distribution of the questionnaire: www.iafob.ch
- Survey period: 1 – 24 February 2017
- Questionnaire takes about 15 minutes to complete

### Responsibility
- Executive Board of ETH Zurich
- ETH Library

Note: the results differ significantly according to the department, form of appointment, research years as a whole and research years at ETH Zurich.
Who was asked

- Professors and assistant professors
- Scientific and senior assistants
- Academic research staff
Publication of academic results and your own publication behaviour

How important is the following for you when submitting your research paper?

- Impact factor
- Possibility to publish pre-print or post-print
- Not having to pay publication fees
- Permitted length of the publication
- Possibility to publish additional data
Publication of academic results and your own publication behaviour

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

- Publishers provide key services for the dissemination of research results
- Universities should offer more support on publishing research results
- If journal prices exceeded an acceptable amount, I’d agree to “do without individual journals”
- In the event of a disproportionate pricing policy among publishers, I’d agree to refuse or step down from duties on an editorial board
- In the event of a disproportionate pricing policy among publishers, I’d agree to refuse or step down from duties as a reviewer
Open Access services at ETH Library

How important are the following aspects for an Open Access policy?

- Continued free choice of journal
- Free access to my publication by third parties
- Retaining my author’s exploitation rights (e.g. right to publish the pre- or post-print).
- Policy should generally be compulsory and not merely regarded as a recommendation
Open Access publishing

How have you published OA in the past twelve months (multiple answers possible)?

- Academic social network: 26.5%
- Hybrid journal: 23.6%
- Open access journal: 32.0%
Open Access publishing

Reason for publishing Open Access in the past twelve months

- Practised successfully by my colleagues: 34.9%
- Recommended by co-author: 19.9%
- Recommended by supervisor: 20.3%
- Recommended by OA policy: 10.7%
- Wish for freely accessible research results: 63.8%
- Higher citation rate than in a subscription journal: 19.9%
- Faster publication process: 14.3%
Future use of Open Access journals at ETH Zurich

How would you rate a complete transformation of academic publishing from the subscription-based model to Open Access (APCs paid by university)?

- Very positive or positive: 64%
- Neutral: 12%
- Very negative or negative: 3%
- No answer: 8%
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On the way to a new OA policy at ETHZ

3. Road Map and Further Steps

2017

OA POLICY

Conduction of OA survey
Revision of ETH Zurich’s OA policy
Discussion of the draft in the departments and stands until 31 December 2017
Finalisation of the policy

OA SURVEY

Discussion of the survey results in the departments
Challenges

Global dissemination of new knowledge and maximising the chances of young researchers without obstacles

- Controlling costs and time in the migration period (implementing OA shouldn’t lead to higher costs)
- Young scientists’ careers should be promoted, not jeopardised
- Different publishing cultures in the disciplines need to be treated adequately
- Different research cultures in Europe, the USA and Asia
- Development of the publishers: attractive new business models for OA?
- Future “publication world” not foreseeable; Golden Road just one of several ways
Thank you very much for your attention!

Dr Rafael Ball
Director of ETH Library
Rämistrasse 101, CH-8092 Zurich
Tel. +41 44 632 21 25, Fax +41 44 632 13 57
rafael.ball@library.ethz.ch, www.library.ethz.ch