
SYMPHONY (142-008)

SYMPHONY (**S**wiss **S**ystem for **M**onitoring **b**ibliographic data and **H**olistic publication behavior **a**nalysis):
Requirements Analysis

Open Access is widely regarded as a cornerstone of a modern, transparent, and effective scientific system. National scientific systems which foster and promote Open Access in the everyday scientific practice will increase the quality of scientific output, the dissemination of scientific knowledge into the society and promote interdisciplinary research. However, conventional systems and tools used to measure the quantity and quality of scientific output are biased against Open Access publications and other new forms of publication. They enforce a view on scientific communication which seems more and more antiquated and has become increasingly counterproductive because grants and careers in science are bound to those systems.

The study described in this application will pave the way for resolving this challenging and contradictory situation. It will address the need for new approaches in monitoring Swiss scientific publications by proposing several realistic and consistent solutions (scenarios) for a "Swiss System for Monitoring bibliographic data and Holistic publication behavior analysis" (SYMPHONY) that are able to solve the problems mentioned above.

These scenarios have to take into account the considerable heterogeneity of the Swiss science system. Therefore, the study starts with a stakeholder dialog (interviews) which involves 45 key players (research organizations and universities, funding agencies, policy makers etc.) on their current practice of measuring the quantity and quality of scientific output with a focus on publication monitoring (technical infrastructure, financial resources, organizational guidelines and processes) and their needs and requirements for a new and/or adapted infrastructure. Based on these interview findings, the project team will develop a limited number (3-5) of scenarios for an improved infrastructure with cost estimations and an assessment of their match with the stakeholders needs. The stakeholders can comment on these scenarios in the second phase of the stakeholder dialog (workshop). The feedback will then be integrated in a revised version of the scenarios that is complemented with recommendations for the next steps.

The project SYMPHONY: Requirements Analysis will provide the necessary, but currently lacking information on requirements for the current and future monitoring of scientific publications in Switzerland. Another positive side effect of the project will be an increase of bibliometric knowledge and competence that can be considered as a first step towards a Swiss Center for Bibliometrics at the HTW Chur. The results of SYMPHONY are vital for increasing the international visibility of Swiss research, removing the current bias in the evaluation of publication behavior and for supporting research organizations and policy makers in their efforts to analyze and evaluate research behavior as well as to measure the effects of new policies (e.g. the promotion of Open Access).