Diamonds are forever! or:
(Is there) a way forward for institutional publishing services in Norway

Presentation during OPEN ACCESS WEEK
online, 29 October 2021

Per Pippin Aspaas
UiT The Arctic University of Norway
PART 1 about the report on Diamond OA publishing in Norway
PART 2 about the Diamond OA model and possible effects of institutional publishing in a broader perspective
In October 2020, a committee was commissioned with the following tasks (my translation):

- Describe current publishing services and platforms in Norway and the Nordic countries

- Describe challenges that researchers face in the current publishing landscape, with special regard to Open Science, collaboration and quality

- Assess strengths and weaknesses of institutional publishing services

- Present different models for a common Nordic publishing service, with concrete examples as a starting point. In the recommended solution, the committee should discuss systems of quality control, models of open publishing, possibilities for collaboration, business models, and technical solutions and standards.
In October 2020, a committee was commissioned ...

GITTE KOLSTRUP  library director, University of Stavanger
HENRIK KARLSTRØM  bibliometrician, institutional publishing platform of NTNU in Trondheim
ALEX HANSEN  researcher in physics at NTNU, editor at Frontiers
OLE-JØRGEN HAUGEN  student at OsloMet, representative of The National Union of Students in Norway (NSO)
VIDAR RØEGGEN  formerly employee at Universitetsforlaget, representative of the National Publishing Committee at Universities Norway
PER PIPPIN ASPAAS  historian of science, representative of the institutional publishing platform of UiT in Tromsø
In October 2020, Universities Norway (Universitets- og høgskoleraadet) nominated a committee to explore possible solutions for a national or Nordic platform for institution-based open-access journals edited by Norwegian research communities. One of the tasks of the committee was to...

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Institutional Open Access publishing in other Nordic countries:

**Finland**  [https://journal.fi/](https://journal.fi/) ≈100 journals, hosted by an umbrella organisation for societies

**Sweden** some institutional publishing services, e.g. Stockholm UP. Also, a national service in the making, based at Kungliga Biblioteket

**Denmark**  [https://tidsskrift.dk](https://tidsskrift.dk) 165 journals hosted by Kongelige Bibliotek, some with delayed OA or even subscription only (not OA)

All running on Open Journal Systems (Public Knowledge Project)
But with very different roles and policies
Bleak prospects for *immediate* Nordic collaboration
Instead, the committee suggests stronger, formalised *national* collaboration
Existing Norwegian institutional publishing services:

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8 Institutional platforms publish in total 71 peer-reviewed, open-access journals
Existing Norwegian institutional publishing services:

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Also, three commercial publishing houses publish open access:

8 Institutional platforms publish in total 71 peer-reviewed, open-access journals

3 publishers, in total 51 open-access journals
Existing Norwegian institutional publishing services:

Also, three commercial publishing houses publish open access:
POSSIBLE MODELS FOR INSTITUTIONAL PUBLISHING IN NORWAY

1. Continuing the current situation with local platforms
   - NOT ROBUST ENOUGH. UNEVEN QUALITY CONTROL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

2. Merging the local platforms into a Nordic platform
   - TOO DISPARATE POLICY SITUATIONS

3. Outsourcing the publishing services to (a) commercial service provider(s)
   - TOO EXPENSIVE & MONOLITHIC

4. Merging the local platforms in a national platform
   - HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITY AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE COST
8 Institutional platforms publish in total 71 peer-reviewed, open-access journals
OUR RECOMMENDED MODEL

1. COMMON platform publishes peer-reviewed, open-access journals according to strict, coordinated quality criteria with support staff distributed across the country.

8. Institutional platforms publish in total 71 peer-reviewed, open-access journals.

Image credits:
Map by Bjarkan, CC BY-SA 4.0
OUR RECOMMENDED MODEL

The committee sees it necessary to establish a more uniform publishing service

The local representatives shall help ensure that all journals have
- strict, transparent systems of peer review and editorial work
- attractive design, both on journal webpage and individual articles
- XML (>Epub/Html-formats, universal design)
- systematic use of plagiarism software
- DOI is a necessity, inclusion in DOAJ likewise

.... and whatever comes next in open-source based, community driven open access publishing!
PART 2  about the Diamond OA model and possible effects of institutional publishing in a broader perspective
What might happen next? (PERSONAL THOUGHTS)

Commercial publishers will probably continue to thrive in Norway

STRONG OA POLICY + STRONG CULTURAL POLICY REG. NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE
+ A CERTAIN RELUCTANCY TO GIVE UP ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

= PUBLIC MONEY WILL CONTINUE TO REACH OLD, HIGHLY ESTEEMED PUBLISHING HOUSES
   WITH THE STRICT CONDITION THAT EVERYTHING HAS TO BE OPEN ACCESS

Institutional publishing will hopefully begin to really thrive in Norway

EXISTING COMPETENCE WITHIN INSTITUTIONS + MANY HAPPY EDITORS AND AUTHORS AS «LOBBYISTS»
+ A CERTAIN RELUCTANCE TO OUTSOURCE EVERYTHING, ESPECIALLY NOT AT ANY COST

= PUBLIC MONEY WILL BE (RE)DIRECTED TOWARDS DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS, WITH THE STRICT CONDITION
   THAT EVERYTHING HAS TO BE QUALITY ASSURED
What might happen next?  (PERSONAL THOUGHTS)

INTERNATIONAL PUSH & PULL FACTORS – POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY

+  

HAPPY «CUSTOMERS» WORLD WIDE: RESEARCHERS REALISE THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH

=  

DIAMOND OPEN ACCESS IS LIKELY TO GROW
What might happen next? (PERSONAL THOUGHTS)

Diamonds are forever?

Indeed!

Is there a way forward for institutional publishing services in Norway?

I certainly think so!