

Working with the Research Community towards Open Science – ZBW's Experience in Economics and Business Studies

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Overview

1. **The ZBW in the German Information Landscape**
2. **Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics**
 - a. **Open Access**
 - b. **Research Data Management**
 - c. **Conferences and Workshops**
3. **The Communication Process and the Cultural Change**
4. **Lessons Learned and Outlook**

1. The ZBW in the German Information Landscape

- In Germany, the academic sector is divided in University based research and the non-university research organisations (like the Max-Planck Society, the Fraunhofer Society or the Leibniz Association).
- -> ZBW belongs to the Leibniz Association.
- Official national role since 1966 as the „National Library for Economics and Business Studies“ (German Acronym „ZBW“), with the main activities *document delivery* and *production of bibliographic databases*
- Other similar non-university national research libraries and information centres, a lot of them now part of Leibniz
- National role as information infrastructures, but no local campus



1. The ZBW in the German Information Landscape

- About 10 years ago, a new paradigm for these institutions emerged:
- Transformation away from (less needed) classical roles towards new aspects of information infrastructure and research support, meaning:
 - **Closer cooperation with the disciplinary research community**
 - **Establishing institutional research activities in the field of information sciences and computer science**
 - **New management model (Professor as institutional director instead of a „classical“ library director)**

1. The ZBW in the German Information Landscape

Situation at ZBW:

- Closer cooperation with the disciplinary research community started 10 years ago with new some Open Access projects, later accompanied by the topics Research Data Management and Science 2.0
- Main target groups: learned societies and research associations, but also research institutions and university faculties (focus on institutions rather than single researchers)
- Since 2010 Professor of Computer Science as director of ZBW
- Since 2012 research department (incl. 2 Professors, PostDocs, PhD Students)

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

a) Open Access

- Open Access as the first topic to get in touch with researchers on a new level, not associated with the classical library role of information provision.
- Some practical examples based on our projects
- Focus “What is the new approach to the research community?”

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

a) Open Access

Economists Online

- EU project (2007-2010)
- 16 project partners from 10 EU countries (mainly libraries from e.g. Tilburg University, LSE, University of Toulouse)
- Main aims:
 - Making available publications from European Economists in Open Access
 - Using all legal options to unlock material based on personal publication lists
 - Establishing a network of repositories to store these papers
 - Showcase the content in a single portal

The logo for Economists Online, featuring the text "ECONOMISTSONLINE" in white capital letters on a red rectangular background. The background also contains faint, stylized red arrows and the word "insert" in a light red font.

New approach to the research community:

- Taking care of their publications and making them available openly on the web
- Giving them legal advice concerning their author rights

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

a) Open Access

EconStor

- National DFG-funded project (2008-2010)
- Main aims:
 - Establishing EconStor as networked and visible disciplinary repository
 - Building an automated input service for RePEc
 - Setting up direct connections to Institutions in Economics Research
 - Giving single researchers the option to upload their papers individually

ECONSTOR

Make Your Publications Visible.

New approach to the research community:

- Providing researchers with a platform to disseminate their papers
- Helping research institutions managing their RePEc accounts

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

a) Open Access

E-Journal Economics

- National DFG-funded project (2007-2009)
- Project partners: Kiel Institute of World Economics, ZBW
- Main aims:
 - Set up a new kind of academic journal in Economics Research
 - Open Access
 - Open Peer Review
 - Establish a worldwide network of Economists around this platform



New approach to the research community:

- ZBW as a publishing institution
- Showcasing skills in journal management

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

b) Research Data Management

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

b) Research Data Management

EDaWaX

- National DFG-funded project (2011-2016)
- Project partners: ZBW, German Data Forum (RatSWD), DIW/SOEP, Max-Planck-Institute for Innovation and Competition
- Main aims:
 - Analysing Data Policies and Data Archives of Academic Journals in Economics and Business Studies
 - Setting Up a Journal Data Archive as public infrastructure for journals



New approach to the research community:

- Common project with researchers other research infrastructure experts
- Advising Journal Editors on their strategy towards data based manuscripts

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

b) Research Data Management

SowiDataNet

- National Leibniz-funded project (2014-2017)
- Project partners: GESIS, WZB, ZBW, DIW/SOEP,
- Goals:
 - Development of a technical infrastructure (data repository) to discover and access institutionally created datasets (for quantitative data)
 - Simple and low-threshold infrastructure component to store research data and for long-term access to data.



New approach to the research community:

- Common project with researchers and research infrastructure experts
- Providing skills in managing and storing research data out of projects

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

b) Research Data Management

Guidelines on Research Data Management (RDM)

- National information brochure on several RDM topics for young academics & lecturers (2014/2015)
- Partners: ZBW, GESIS, German Data Forum (RatSWD)
- Addressed issues:
 - What are useful sources to procure data?
 - How to cite research data?
 - How to document self-compiled datasets?
 - How and where to store these datasets?

New approach to the research community:

- Providing skills and expertise to young researchers



2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

c) Conferences and Workshops

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c) Conferences and Workshops

Open Science topics at researchers conferences

- The ZBW has organized several workshops and panel discussions at the annual conferences of the German Economic Association (VfS) or the German Academic Association for Business Research (VHB), e.g.
 - *Panel Discussion “Data Sharing” (VfS 2013)*
 - *Workshop “Science 2.0” (VfS 2014)*
 - *Panel Discussion “Science 2.0” (VHB 2015)*
 - *Workshop “Data Management for Journals” (VHB 2016)*



New approach to the research community:

- Direct communication with learned society
- Addressing Open Science topics and stimulating discussions

2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics

c) Conferences

“The Future of Scholarly communication in Economics”

- *International workshop organized by ZBW and the Kiel Institute*
- *Idea: Economists present their research on aspects of scholarly communication*
- *2-day-event in Hamburg in March 2015*
- *Programme committee with Economists from USA, UK and Germany*



New approach to the research community:

- Organizing a scholarly workshop (from Economists for Economists) together with researchers
- Being visible as expert on scholarly communication

3. The Communication Process and the Cultural Change

- The first years were very difficult
- A lot of “Top-Down-Attitude” among researchers
- But also a rather “classical” library attitude among our own staff, which did not reflect the researchers view enough
- The project activities gave new insights in the world of researchers and their priorities and behaviour
- We also changed along the way, building more and more knowledge with each new project

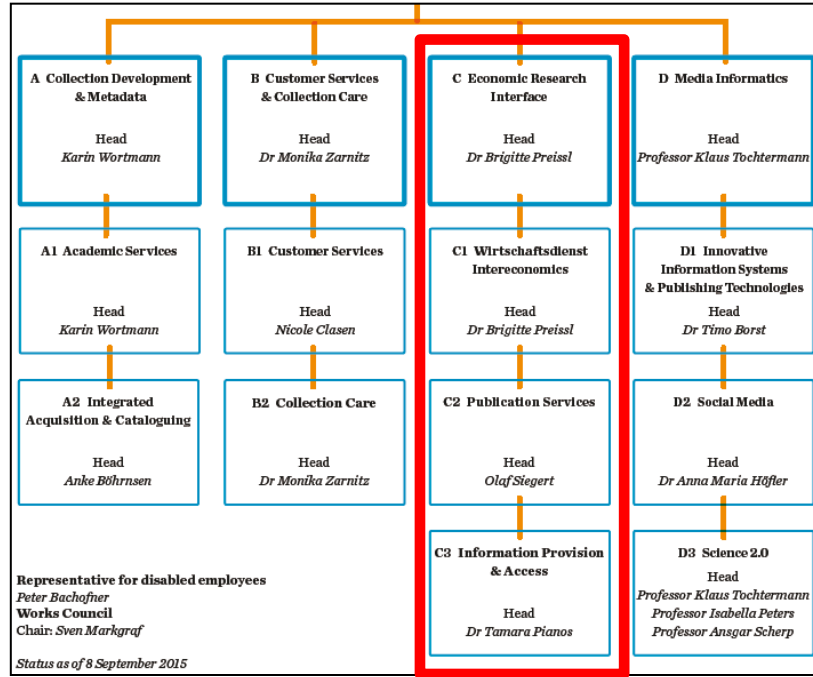
3. The Communication Process and the Cultural Change

Practical changes:

- Major reorganisation at ZBW (in 2012):
 - New department “*Economic Research Interface*” (led by an Economist)
Main tasks:
 - Liaise with research community
 - Identify their needs concerning information infrastructure
 - Present new technical possibilities
 - Communicate new requirements of research policy / research funders
 - New working group “*Publication Services*” with topics *Open Access* and *Research Data Management*

3. The Communication Process and the Cultural Change

ZBW Organizational Chart



4. Lessons Learned and Outlook

- With new topics there are new chances of being recognized by researchers
- It takes time to build enough experiences to be regarded as expert
- Most researchers don't want to specialize in infrastructure or scholarly communication, they are thankful for support of libraries
- Each researcher has his or her personal research environment – the expertise and services offered must fit their individual needs
- Specific libraries offer specific services – ZBW's activities reflect our special role

4. Lessons Learned and Outlook

- Collaboration with researchers will remain very important for ZBW
- Focus on learned societies and research organizations, less on single researchers
- Main aim is to be recognized as natural partner and service provider
- Expanding services towards the European and international level

Thanks for listening!

Any questions or comments?

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