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

Olaf Siegert
Head of Publication Services
ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics

LIBER Annual Conference Helsinki, 29.06.2016
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

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

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)
- Adressed 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
2. Collaboration with the Research Community in Economics
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
• Adressing 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?

For Feedback: o.siegert@zbw.eu