Open Access depends on us professors!

Europe’s Open Access Champions

LIBER 2016 Conference, 30 June 2016
Vanessa Proudman,
SPARC Europe & Proud2Know
Open Access policy momentum

• International policy
  – Competitiveness Council concs, May 2016
• National policies, e.g. funders (HEFCE) and government (NL)
• Approaching change in national law: France
• Institutional policies: Over 550 mandates worldwide as according to ROARMAP
Europe's Open Access Champions

Inspiration from influential European academics on Open Access & what still needs to be done

“Stop discriminating against Open Access publications in research evaluation”
Prof. Diana Šimić

“Open Access depends on us professors!”
Prof. Dr. Rolf-Ulrich Kunze

“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”
Prof. Rune Nilsen

“I hope that the publishing industry becomes an enabler of open”
Dr. Jenny Molloy

“I would like to see more intense competition on price and service”
Prof. Stephen Curry

“Senior researchers can set the good example and encourage our young researchers to take the OA route”
Alain Beretz

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ABOUT
Much work is being done by European scholars to change the hearts and minds of their peers towards more Openness. As an international foundation, SPARC Europe is sharing the stories of a range of Europe’s

CHAMPIONS
Champions actively contribute to advocating and implementing new open scholarship principles and practices within their organisation’s research communities. Champions can be research administrators,

LIBRARIES
Libraries are increasingly working together with the academic community to provide more Open Access to Europe’s research. What have they learnt from engaging with their champions?
Partners

Stockholm University

Institut Ruđer Bošković

AKVŠ

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

OSLO AND AKERSHUS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Imperial College London

ANKOS

Universitetet i Oslo

Karlsruher Institut für Technologie

Ezafus

SDU

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

SPARC Europe
Background

• 22 champions from 8 countries with 4 more to join soon
• From the 6 large disciplines
• Incl. 4 senior university managers (presidents/vice-chancellors), 10 professors, 4 early career researchers
• Online in March 2016
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Prof Diana Šimić

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Champions

**Prof Rune Nilsen**
Professor Emeritus in Global Health
University of Bergen
Norway
“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”

**Dr Jenny Molloy**
Co-ordinator of the Synthetic Biology SRI & OpenPlant and manager of ContentMine
University of Cambridge
UK
“I hope that the publishing industry becomes an enabler of open”

**Prof Jørn Harald Hurum**
Professor of Paleontology
University of Oslo
Norway
“Only peer review Open Access publications”

**Prof Stephen Curry**
Professor of Structural Biology
Imperial College London, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Life Sciences
UK
“I would like to see more intense competition on price and service”

Cambridge’s Open Access Glossary

**FILTER**

**Country**
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- France
- Germany
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands
- **UK**

**Function**
- Administrator
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Home » Champions » Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences

“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences”

Name: Prof Rune Nilsen
Position: Professor Emeritus in Global Health
Expertise: Open Access, University politics, Global health
Institution: University of Bergen
Country: Norway
More info: Home Page

An interview with Prof Rune Nilsen on 23 November 2015

What got you originally interested in Open Access (OA) and how did it evolve?

What is your hope or vision for more Open Access to research?

What are the main challenges for more Open Access, in your opinion?

What can libraries do to promote openness to research?

What still needs to be done to provide more Open Access to research?

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To more champions >
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Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences

openscholarchampions.eu/champions/fightacademicapartheid/

**Name:** Prof Rune Nilsen  
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**Expertise:** Open Access, University politics, Global health  
**Institution:** University of Bergen  
**Country:** Norway

An interview with Prof Rune Nilsen on 23 November 2015

**What got you originally interested in Open Access (OA) and how did it evolve?**

As a child, I grew up in a small industrial town where the idea of solidarity was fundamental. My involvement in global communication began as an amateur radio enthusiast as a teenager. In the late 1960s, as a student, I became influenced by the student riots in Europe and the USA. There was optimism, and a hope for change.

After my PhD in 1981 I started collaborating with research partners in Sudan, Tanzania and Ethiopia in the area of health. At that time, I also got involved in research strategy and university politics. It was when I started working at the high-level Amauer Hansen Research Institute in Ethiopia that I realised that, despite a good research library, local researchers and students did not have access to the research literature they needed. The Institute had sufficient funds to subscribe to what they needed, but was seen as an unreliable customer by leading international publishing houses. This is where I first encountered ‘academic apartheid’: where institutions in low-income countries do not have the same rights to research literature. So I got the Institute to transfer money to the University of Bergen, which in turn transferred payments to the
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Engagement

The knowledge on the following pages comes from European academic libraries that have engaged with the Open Access champions highlighted on this site. They share their lessons learnt in three specific areas:

- How to get champions involved
- How to keep your champions engaged and informed
- What makes a good champion?

Are you using champions as much as you’d like? Here is a list of persons and libraries that have shared their champions and their experiences with us. They might be able to help you further.
The messages

“Open Access depends on us professors!”

Prof Dr Rolf-Ulrich Kunze
The messages

“We need to do more to fight the trend in commercialising science.”

Prof Ing Aleš Čepek
The messages

“Stop discriminating against Open Access publications in research evaluation.”

Prof Diana Šimić
The messages

“Only peer review Open Access publications.”

Prof Jørn Harald Hurum
The messages

“Teach students the mechanics of sharing.”

Dr Stephen Eglen
Champion views on OA and research careers

“The more we can get people talking about how OA concretely improves the researcher’s prospects, the better.”

Jenny Molloy
Champion views on OA and research careers

• Young researchers get **more exposure & recognition earlier** by engaging in discourse from the start benefitting the **quality of academic discourse**

• This **raises their impact faster**, increasing citations

• OA stimulates **better collaboration** for marginal research bringing **more research opportunities**
Champion views on OA and research careers

• When scholars, policy makers and administrators having a certain amount of literacy, and

• If assessment embraces more openness
Champion views on
What still needs to be done ... and why

“We need more openness and collaboration to solve the world’s larger problems related to climate, food and the ocean.”

Prof Rune Nilsen
Champion views on
What still needs to be done

- Goals
- Leadership
- Advocacy
- Education
- Publishing
- Ethics
- Quality
- Research evaluation
- OA and employment
- Policy
Ethics

• Show the inequality in access to help us move away from the traditional publishing business and open up more of our research

• Ensure that all parts of the globe have the chance to participate in OA and tackle barriers like cost and reviewer biases managed by the developed world

• Do more to fight the trend in commercialising science
Research evaluation

• Gain a **greater awareness of the detrimental effects of** our over-reliance on **impact factors**

• Researchers with tenure should **protest against** the current research assessment system

• We need to consider **OA publications in the evaluation of researchers**
Research evaluation

• We need to reward openness in research, making open the norm to conduct science.

• We need to make sure that the act of being open is not prejudicing people and their future opportunities.

• Perhaps we need to reconsider using commercial products to evaluate research, which is unethical.
OA and research employment

• Scholars themselves should take on their global responsibility to **disseminate** their research results **as part of their job**

• **Academic employment and promotion criteria** should embrace Open Access
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PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES SHARED THEIR LESSONS LEARNT
How do you engage with the right champion?

“Target the best person to help achieve the goal, be it for policy development, the implementation of new mandates, or new infrastructure.”
A good OA champion is someone who

- is **convinced** that OA is the **better way for scientific communication**
- **understands** what Open Access is both as a reader and a publisher
- is an **OA expert** and **contact person**
A good OA champion is someone who

- **advocates** the concepts of OA in their local research communities and helps others do so

- trusts in the **impact of value in all research outputs**
A good OA champion has

- the ability to **navigate the complex discussion** on scholarly communication **with clarity**
- the skill to **discuss an emotive topic**
- and can **discern facts from myths**
A good OA champion has

- the skill to be able to **talk as equals with a range** of researchers, managers or administrators from junior to senior or from positive to hostile

- the courage to **go against the establishment**
A good champion acts by

- engaging in **discourse and debate**
- making efforts and supporting peers to **relay action on various levels**
- openly **sharing his/her experiences** with others
- keeping others involved and **on track**
A good champion acts by

- providing libraries with active roles in OA and recognising their important roles
- strengthening the idea of OA within the community of young researchers
- not considering journal-based metrics in hiring, promotion or funding decisions
What we can do

“The important thing is to keep moving and keep the channels of communication open.”

Prof. Stephen Curry, Imperial College London
What we can do

1. **Engage** with our champions and continue to do so, and **adopt new ones** for specific goals

2. **Actively utilise** the messages and knowledge gained in our advocacy work

3. **Use** *(Europe’s OA) Champions* in our advocacy
What’s next

More Open Access Champions

! << Europe’s Open Data Champions >> !

Will you join us?
Thank you for listening

Any questions?

Europe’s Open Access Champions
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SPARC Europe