

# Structural changes in Library of Vilnius University to ensure and implement ideas of Open Access

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# STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN LIBRARY OF VILNIUS UNIVERSITY TO ENSURE AND IMPLEMENT IDEAS OF OPEN ACCESS

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## Abstract

Scientific Information Data Centre (in lit. MODUS) in Vilnius University (VU) Library was founded in 2008. The aim of the Centre is to participate in creation of VU electronic information strategy and formation of VU position in Lithuanian virtual information space of science and studies, implementation and dissemination of Open Access (OA) ideas and development of scientific communication. This paper deals with MODUS activities related to realization of Open Access ideas and ensurement of scientific communication: Vilnius University *Regulations of Open Access to scientific information*, *Conception of the institutional repository of Vilnius University*, Open Access section in the library website, participation in projects, and other activities.

**Keywords:** Open Access, scientific information, scientific data, Vilnius University Library.

## Introduction

Development of open access archives and repositories, increasing numbers of open access journals, adoption of specific political documents related to access to production of scientific research released by research financing bodies accelerate Open access movement. However ideas of the open access, rapidly spreading over the world, meet considerable obstacles. Therefore importance of this movement encourages scientific institutions, libraries and anyone who supports the open access to search for means and ways how to ensure the fulfilment of these ideas.

Scientific Information Data Centre in Vilnius University Library was established 2008 02 04. Creation of the new division was financed from the budget of Vilnius University. The main purpose of the Centre is to forward creation of electronic information strategy and virtual space for research and study in Vilnius University and Vilnius University Library.

The Centre has the following goals:

- to research and present information about new services and new technologies, scientific information and communication;
- to create and to implement new projects and new services in connection with development of new technologies;
- to maintain and expand scientific communication among the community of the Vilnius University;
- to implement Open Access ideas.

In the plans of a Centre one of the main places is occupied by actions related to Open Access propoganda and realization of OA ideas.

## Initiatives and preparing strategic documents concerning Open Access

Open Access is free availability on the public internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself [Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2002].

Therefore, the aim of OA movement is to ensure free and unrestricted online access to results of scientific research. Cornerstone of this movement is *Declaration of open access to social sciences and humanities*, Berlin, 2003. It says that authors should grant the ability to check out their scientific publications for free and to use them without violating the real copyright to provide information openly. One of the most important tasks for MODUS in 2009 was to expand

activities aimed at ensuring open access to scientific production in Vilnius University and dissemination of information about the global open access movement.

The most important achievement in the field of inducing OA to scientific information is strategic document confirmed in 2009: *Regulations of Open Access to Scientific Information and Research Results of Vilnius University*. While preparing this document diverse information was collected, experience of numerous libraries and science institutions, open access strategic documents were analyzed. The first step was to present Regulations' draft VU Council of Electronic information strategy (ELITA), and then, 2009 October 8th, Regulations approved by the majority of the members of VU Senate committee. The finalised version is approved by the order of Rector of the University.

The main principles of *Regulations of Open Access to Scientific Information and Research Results of Vilnius University*:

- Researchers, scientists, lecturers, assistant scientific personnel and other members of Vilnius University scientific community working in Vilnius University, should upload (if there is a possibility) their scientific articles printed in reviewed scientific journals and other scientific production to Vilnius University institutional repository.
- Scientific journals, financed from the University budget, should be included in to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ – <http://www.doaj.org>).

Another achievement of MODUS – *Concept of Vilnius University institutional/electronic repository*, created in year 2009 and approved by VU Senate Committee in October of 2009.

This concept plans that Vilnius University institutional repository will be created in stages:

- Preparatory stage of repository creation: explanation and presentation of open access concept and regulations of institutional repository to Vilnius University scientific community; discussion and approval of these documents; selection and adaptation of hardware and software; preparation of specifications; planning of financial and human resources.
- 1st stage. Uploading of scientific production to VU institutional repository.
- 2nd stage. Uploading of study related documents to VU institutional repository.
- 3rd stage. Uploading of documents related to institutional administration to VU institutional repository.

Due to the change of attitude towards administration documents as part of the institutional depository, in 2010 the Concept was revised and it was decided to cancel 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the depository creation.

In 2010 preparatory stage comprised following tasks:

- Preparation of the VU institutional repository financing project discussed in ELITA committee.
- Creation of software specification.
- Comparative study of open source software in conformity with afore-mentioned specification.
- Testing of software and full-text indexing.
- Analyses related to creation and financing, licensing and political documents of institutional repositories.
- Analysis of supplements to license agreement and political regulations of institutional repositories; preparation of the first version of political regulations of VU repository.

### **Open Access section in the website of Vilnius University Library**

In the fall 2010 VU library presented new section in it's website for Lithuanian academic community: *Open Access* division. It introduces the OA terminology, history, advantages, means of putting into practice and most important political documents as well as presents significant OA sources and new libraries' service of consulting on putting OA into practice and questions on copyright.

All information in the section is presented under 8 headings:

- What does Open Access mean?
- Open Access Strategies.
- Benefits of the Open Access.
- Initiatives and policy documents.
- Open access resources.
- Legal issues.

- Ask.
- Glossary.

This section briefly looks over history and aims of Open Access movement, introduces two main strategies of OA to scientific information, which are proposed by Budapest Open Access initiative – *golden* and *green* road, and the third one, sometimes called the variety of golden and green roads – *grey* road. *Benefits of the Open Access* provides scientists with information about merits of the open access.

Those who are interested in the main political documents and initiatives of global importance, related to realization of OA to scientific information, would probably be interested in information on *Initiatives and political documents*. It chronologically lists documents helpful for planning of future strategies and actions, beginning from the first declarations important to this movement to current international recommendations and researches.

Information under the heading *Copyright* could be of assistance to those eager to gain knowledge on open access, as well for individuals wishing to publish their articles on personal homepages or OA repositories, that are not aware about the policy of publishers on copyright and their attitude of open access. Here the main laws of the Lithuanian Republic are displayed to be used when solving problems of copyright and information protection; it provides information on where one could look for the policy of individual publishers on copyright and publishing in electronic OA repositories; advises authors on usage rights of open access content.

Great attention was granted to selection and presentation of topical OA information sources, because they are important part of current scientific communication. All OA resources could be found in general table of electronic resources or in the section *Open Access resources*. Resources are divided into three groups for the ease of searching:

- *Open access electronic journals collections*. Links to the full text of scholarly journal directories, registries and archives, where one can find peer-reviewed articles from the journals of the main branches of science.
- *Open access repositories*. Links are provided to OA repository directories, subject and institutional repositories, where one can find production of various branches of science (scientific articles, studies, proceedings and other published and unpublished material).
- *Open access data archives*. One could search in the access data archives of social, physical, natural, humanities and technological disciplines.

Finally, open access section informs about new library service – personal consultations of library specialists to all those who are uncertain about the copyright issues and who do not know their rights and responsibilities or are uncertain about journal policy on online article archiving. Questions could be asked by e-mail or phone, they will be answered within two working days.

It is important to note that the information is available in Lithuanian (<http://www.mb.vu.lt/atvira-prieiga>) and English (<http://www.mb.vu.lt/en/atvira-prieiga>).

Some other activities designed to promote and maintain Open Access are also worth mentioning:

- Preparation and presentation of papers *Open access to scientific information* at Vilnius Book Fair, and *Access to scientific publications, opportunities of realisation: publisher's attitudes and practices of academic institutions* at the conference of Lithuanian Scientific Society.
- Participation in seminars and conferences on OA in Lithuania and abroad.
- Publications in University press and blogs.
- Participation in *Open Access Week* events.
- Participation in OA projects, etc.

## Conclusions

Basing on the experience of Vilnius University Library we could suggest that institution itself must be interested in the implementation of the Open Access ideas, however real results could be achieved when there is a specific division in the structure of institution that is directly responsible for these activities.

Scientific Information Data Centre of Vilnius University Library is a great example to prove that a lot could be achieved by the efforts of just two persons.