The State of Open Access in Belgium’s French-speaking Universities
BICfB…

- BICfB = Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique
- Non-profit organization created in 2000 by the Rectors of the French-speaking universities (9 universities in 2000; 6 in 2012 [after mergings])
- Aimed at promoting, coordinating and developing a common policy between the university libraries regarding academic and scientific documentation
  - consortial purchase of eProducts
    - ca 50 products for 2012
  - 1 yearly project / study (e.g.: institutional repositories, Open Access, preservation and curation…)
- Financed by the public authorities (65%) and the universities (35%)
- Daily activities managed by a technical staff (1.5 FTE)
- Decisions taken by the Board (6 universities’ chief librarians)
A Study on Open Access

• Request from the Rectors and the F.R.S.-FNRS at the General Assembly (Spring 2011)
• **Aim:** to take stock of OA development and projects in the universities, particularly on:
  1) Institutional Mandates
  2) Institutional Repositories (IRs) (**Green Road**)
  3) Active implication of researchers & professors (with editorial role) in OA journals (**Gold Road**)
• Made between February and May 2012
• Presented to the Rectors and the F.R.S.-FNRS in June 2012
1) Institutional Mandates for FT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>PhD theses</th>
<th>Journal articles</th>
<th>Other document types</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUNDP</td>
<td>✓ 2008</td>
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<td>FUSL</td>
<td>✓ 2005/2008</td>
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<td>(application planned for 2013)</td>
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<td>ULB</td>
<td>✓ 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>ULg</td>
<td>✓ 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMONS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| F.R.S.-FNRS | /         |                  | • Publications must be referenced in the IRs (recommendation, mandatory 2013 for some researchers)  
• No mandate for the FT in the IRs |

Situation of May 2012
2) Green Road

- Two projects:

- Institutional Repositories:
  - 250,000 archived references (beginning of March 2012):
    - ca 33,000 references with an OA FT (13,2%)
    - ca 49,000 references with a FT in restricted access (19,6%)
  - Very contrasting situation:
    - No systematic FT deposit in all institutions
    - One single institution counts for 2/3 of all references with an OA FT
Total References in the IRs

P. 32 of the report
(data from beginning of March 2012)
Evolution of the “big” 3 IRs

Beginning of March 2012

- UCL
- ULB
- ULg

Mid-October 2012

- UCL
- ULB
- ULg

Legend:
- Blue: Number of references
- Red: Number of references with FT
- Green: Number of references with FT in OA
References with a FT in Open Access

by document type

- Academic journal articles [n=17,226]
- Book chapters [n=4,797]
- Unpublished communications [n=3,793]
- Dissertations [n=2,073]
- Working papers [n=1,862]
- Reports [n=621]
- Books [n=604]
- Patents [n=125]
- Others [n=1,665]

Total: 32,766 references

See p. 27 of the report
IRs & Scopus

Journal articles published between 2009 and 2011
in the IRs and in Scopus

Better visibility of the scholarly production of the universities
→ Journal articles
→ Also for more discrete publication types (working papers, e-prints, reports, patents…) (7% of all IRs)
Downloads from all IRs

- 2010: 194,345
- 2011: 491,609
- 2012 (estimated): 670,000
3) Gold Road

No inter-university project at the time being

- **PEPS** project (BICfB, 2004):
  - PEPS = *Portail Électronique de Périodiques Scientifiques*
  - = common platform for OA publishing of academic journals
  - study made on behalf of Minister Fr. Dupuis, but no funding for development

- Only local initiatives:
  - Iconothèque ULB (2002)
    - 4,000 images and pictures for teaching and research
  - PoPuPS at ULg (2005)
    - Platform for OA publishing of academic journals (14 journals)
  - Partnership between Bibliothèques ULB and Éditions ULB (2008)
    - Out of print ULB books re-published in OA
    - Book chapters written by ULB authors and published by Éditions ULB available in OA in IR

- What about the implication in OA journals of our researchers & professors (with an editorial role)?
Editorial role in OA journals

• **HOW to come to that information?**
  o Corpus based on three sources:
    1) Online survey for researchers and professors
       • 176 answers from 101 different persons (20% with F.R.S.-FNRS mandate)
    2) Universities’ librarians
    3) Sample (20%) DOAJ

• **WHO & WHAT?**
  o Globally, definite identification of:
    • **394 professors and researchers** (if DOAJ = 100%: 866)
    • **205 academic journals**
    • **467 implications** (editor, editor-in-chief, member of the editorial board, member of the scientific board, peer-reviewer…)
Editorial role in OA journals

• Approximately **1/10 researcher from our universities would actively be involved** (editorial role) in OA journals! → **awareness**
• 1/5 OA journal has got an IF 2010
• 1/3 OA journal has got an SJR 2011
• **Confusion** among the researchers (8% of the online survey answers) between:
  o Open Access journals,
  o Journals accessible thanks to an institutional subscription (traditional model),
  o And **hybrid journals** (= journal for which a subscription is needed to get access to, with some few Open Access articles [because researchers paid to publish them in OA]) → real necessity to inform better the researchers of the perversity of hybrid journals

• **Very few publications on Open Access (part from librarians…)**
Conclusions: How to go further?

Mandates

• Institutional mandates should be more respected
• FT deposit mandates for researchers subsidized by the F.R.S.-FNRS
• To a multi-institutional mandate → stronger
• To a European mandate? < fight lead by Universities’ Authorities

Copyright issues

• Authors shouldn’t automatically give all their copyrights to the publishers
• Keeping rights within the universities

→ More visibility, more downloads, more recognition!
BICfB report

*L'Open Access en Belgique francophone : étude de la BICfB réalisée à la demande des Recteurs des universités et du F.R.S.-FNRS.*


Bruxelles: Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de la Communauté française de Belgique (BICfB), 2012.

Available at: [http://hdl.handle.net/2268/124876](http://hdl.handle.net/2268/124876)
Thanks for your attention!

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http://www.bicfb.be

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