

# “The Research Council of Norway’s publication grants for scholarly journals: present status and the road ahead”

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1. A brief introduction to Research Council of Norway  
Publication grants scheme and NOP-HS
2. Publication grants – Some present and future  
issues
3. Comments on Sivertsen's proposal for a New  
business model

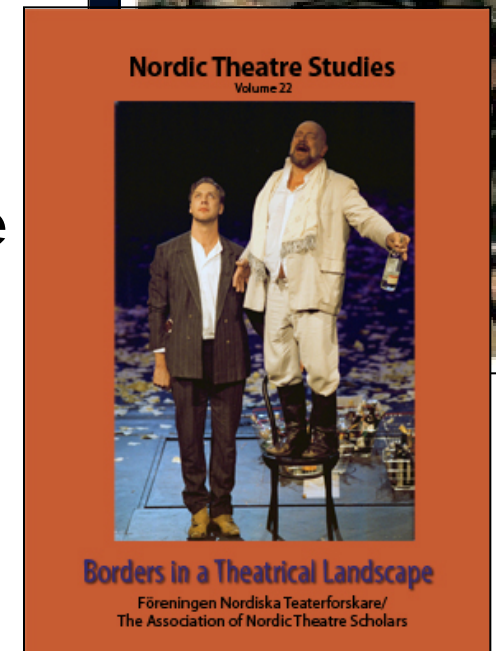
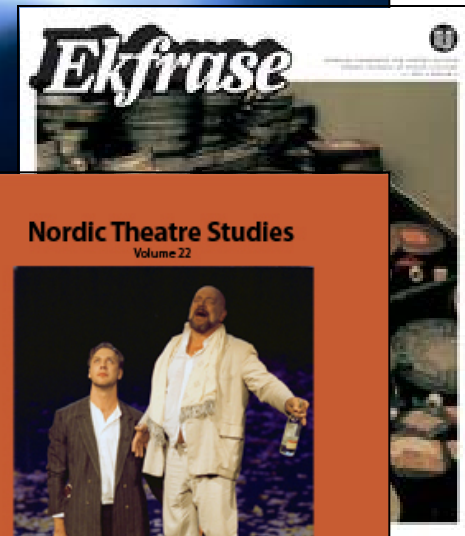
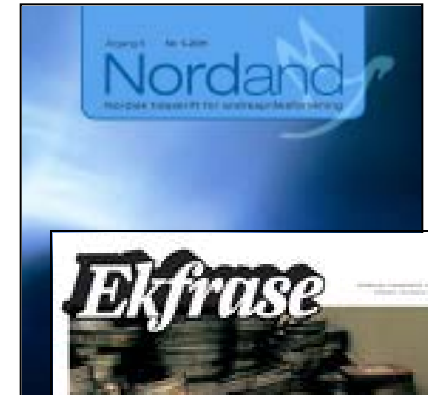
# Research Council of Norway's Publication Grants for the Arts & humanities and Social sciences (PUBL)

- Established 1993 with predecessors from the 70's
- Budget for scholarly journals in 2012 is 4,0 mill NOK
  - Supports 36 journals in 2012
  - Average yearly grant 80 000 NOK (average appl. 106 000,- NOK)
- Open Access pilot 2010-2012
  - 6 applications in 2012, 4 grants
  - Evaluation of guidelines due in 2012



# Nordic journal publication board for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOP-HS)

- Joint financing from Nordic research councils (on top of national grant instruments)
- Budget for 2012 is 2,8 mill NOK
  - 42 scholarly journals financed in 2012
  - Average grant NOK 60 000 (91 000,-)
- Supports Open Access Journals since 2009
  - 9 applications for 2012, 8 grants
  - Open Access might be mandatory in future calls





## Some present and future issues



- Journals Total cost plans varies (NOK 100K to 500K)
- Drop in number of subscribers but sustained total costs
- Support fewer journals or even out the funds?



- Slight increase in number of grant proposals
- Difficulty in assessing the readership/academic impact



- Increasing number of applications for Open Access
- Both new initiatives and established journals converting
- OA journals have ambiguous financial plans

## “Sivertsen’s New Model” a few comments

- Can we seize the opportunity?
  - Open Access has political momentum (2009 Government’s White paper on research “Klima for forskning”)
  - Everybody likes a model that solves problems with no extra cost!
- Identify potential financial scope and funding plan
  - 50 OA-journals = 5-10 mill NOK
- A new model must be based on the needs of the research community
  - Support the uniqueness of journals and their role in the research environment
  - Awareness vs “International publication will solve this”

# Portal or national production unit?

- Idunn.no
  - Established professional publisher
  - Possible lock-in with commercial actor, high costs
- “Norwegian Open Journal Portal”
  - Collaboration between OJS-providers
  - OJS-providers must increase publishing competence
- Do we need a “portal” at all?
  - Cost efficiency
  - Science 2.0



