

“Fight academic apartheid to advance equality and quality in the sciences!” Europe’s Open Access Champions



Munin Conference on Scholarly Publishing,
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Vanessa Proudman



Open Access policy momentum

- International policy
 - EU Action Plan for Open Science, April 2016
 - Competitiveness Council concs, May 2016
- National policies, e.g. funders (HEFCE) and government (N)
- Changes in national law (FR)
- Institutional policies: Over 700 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



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

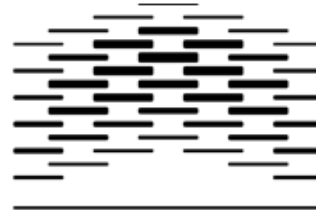
Champions actively contribute to advocating and implementing new open scholarship principles and practices within their organisation's research communities. Champions can be research administrators,

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



OSLO AND AKERSHUS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF APPLIED SCIENCES



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



Background

- 23 champions from 9 countries with 3 more to join soon
- From 6 large disciplines
- Incl. 4 senior university managers (presidents/vice-chancellors), 11 professors, 4 early career researchers
- Online in March 2016



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Home » Champions

Champions

Search...

[Cambridge's Open Access Glossary](#)

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"



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/

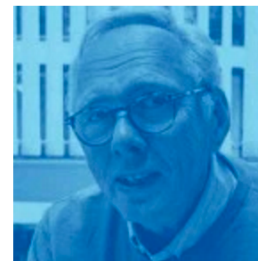
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An interview with Prof Rune Nilsen on 23 November 2015

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 [Armauer 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



Champion views on what still needs to be done

Advocacy

Education

Ethics

Quality

Policy

Leadership

Publishing

Research evaluation

OA and employment

Strong leadership is needed

“We need strong and knowledgeable academic leadership for more access to research to

- 1) mandate Open Access and*
- 2) to take on the publishers”*



Prof Rune Nilsen, University of Bergen

Our champions say

Challenge the current system

- We need **to voice our concerns** with regard to the business practices of commercial publishers
- **Challenge** publishers who impose **embargoes** whilst maintaining high subscription fees
- Administrations should **stop subscribing** to **abusive publishers** and support the Open Library of Humanities or arXiv instead



We need to

“Wipe the slate clean and erase all the out-dated business models for academic publishing.”

Jenny Molloy, University of Cambridge



Our champions say
We need to do more to ...

- **put in perspective or minimise the importance of publishing in non-open access journals**
- **clear the landscape for the development of new Open Access titles**

Our champions say
We need to do more to ...

- **fight the trend in commercialising science**
- ensure that **all parts of the globe** have the chance to **participate in Open Access** dealing with barriers to publication that include **cost** and **reviewer biases** from the developed world

“Setting a good example is the 1st step”

- **Publish** more of our **top work OA**, and improve journal impact
- Tenured researchers should **stop working for traditional journals** or **help flip them** to better models
- Researchers need to **personally commit to *using* and *preferring* OA resources** and encourage others to do the same

Setting a good example is the 1st step

We need to **practice what we preach**

What our champions say about 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**



What our champions say on 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
- We need to include publishing OA in **academic research and teaching employment contracts**

What our champions say on Research evaluation

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



What our champions say on Research evaluation

- We need to **reward openness in research**, making open the norm to conduct science
 - We need to consider **OA publications in the evaluation of researchers**
- Perhaps we need to **reconsider using commercial products to evaluate research**, which is unethical

Question

How far are we promoting **leadership**
in the **research community**
to help achieve Open Access?



**PARTICIPATING LIBRARIES
SHARED THEIR LESSONS LEARNT**





Europe's Open Access Champions

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[Home](#) » [Engagement](#)

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.

Search...



LIBRARY LESSONS LEARNT

[How to get champions involved](#)

[How to keep your champions engaged and informed](#)

[What makes a good champion?](#)



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 ...

- ❑ can **discern facts from myths**
- ❑ has the skill to **discuss an emotive topic**
- ❑ the ability to **navigate the complex discussion** on scholarly communication **with clarity and engages in debate**



A good OA champion ...

- ❑ **understands** what Open Access is both as a reader and a publisher
- ❑ **advocates** the concepts of OA in their local research communities and **helps others do so**
- ❑ can **talk as equals with a range** of researchers, managers or administrators from junior to senior / positive to hostile

A good OA champion, above all ...

- is convinced** that OA is the **better way for scientific communication**
- trusts in the **impact of value in all research outputs**
- has the courage to **go against the establishment**
- provides libraries with active roles** in OA and recognises their **important roles**

Engaging more with our champions



- Help them (and their dept) **publish OA**
- **Keep them informed:**
Share news / successes / milestones
- Help draw up / further **develop policy**

Engaging more with our champions



Invite them / their students / researchers to

- **test out ideas / methods**
- **join projects in an advisory capacity**
- **help facilitate a new project / idea / service within their community**
- **attend, moderate or publicise OA-related events**
- **serve on relevant committees**

BUT ...

Be sparing with
your resource!



Europe's Open Data Champions

Please
join us!

SPARC Europe
Europe's Open Champions are mobilising their communities

SPARC Europe is a European coalition to making Open the default for research and education. Open Europe empowers people to solve big problems and make new discoveries through the adoption of policies and practices that advance Open Access, Open Data and Open Education.

OPEN ACCESS
The free, immediate, online availability of research articles (usually with the rights to reuse, distribute, and build on).

OPEN EDUCATION
Digital resources, tools and practices that are free of charge, accessible to all, and designed to help learners, teachers, and institutions.

OPEN DATA
Research data that is freely available online, stored permanently, and can be downloaded, copied, and reused.

SPARC Europe
Open Access Champions

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We are looking for Open Access Champions in Europe. We are looking for people who are passionate about Open Access and who can help us to promote it in their institutions.

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Who is your champion, and how connected are you to them?



Thank you for listening

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