

Best Poster by a First Timer

Veterinary Science and Open Access

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Abstract

In our study we wanted to review the options available for preserving publications written by the teaching and research staff of the faculty taking into account copyright as well. We also compared article citations, and were surprised to learn that the articles receiving most citations were the ones self-archived, i.e. published in repositories, social networks, and author websites. Next we analysed students' theses from the open access point of view, i.e. based on students' copyright declarations. It is surprising to us that a generation brought up in a world of mobiles, tablets, laptops, and the internet does not take seriously the decision concerning their own theses and their online accessibility.

Key words: repository; open access; scientific publications; citations; veterinary medicine.

Introduction

Scientific life has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. We have become familiar with social networking and the concept of Open Access (OA). Research collaboration and information availability have also significantly changed. Considering the fact that our institution is the only veterinary library in the country, collecting, preserving publications and papers of this very specific scientific field and making them available is a paramount task for us. In order to preserve and promote this service, in 2010 we established a DSpace based institutional repository called HuVetA, i.e. the Hungarian Veterinary Archive, and focussed on collecting BSc, MSc and PhD theses, historical materials, and biographies. In the next few years we would like to expand the scope of the collection to Hungarian veterinary publications. This would not only mean collecting and preserving publications but would also provide an imprint of the professional achievements of our institution.

Aim

Our aim was twofold: firstly, we wanted to examine how Generation Y – well-versed in multi-media and a great variety of web services – related to making their own theses available online. Secondly, we wanted to review the options available for preserving publications written

by the teaching and research staff of the faculty taking account of copyright as well. Both research topics were aimed at learning about the current situation in order to use the data obtained to determine the scope of knowledge required to expand HuVetA content in the future. We hope the results would help us provide authors with detailed information regarding all of the archiving, publishing options available to them so that they can choose the most suitable one.

Methods

In the first part of our study we tried to find the connection between usage data of the repository and the copyright statements attached to theses. The connection could help us identify the most visited and most viewed links, and also the range of users accessing the data, be it through the Internet, from the Faculty through a dedicated computer, or not accessed by anyone. In order to answer our second question, we examined foreign language articles written by Department heads and managers of the Faculty of Veterinary Science in the past five years (2009-2013) published in foreign journals. The list of publications and the citations were taken from the MTMT (*Magyar Tudományos Művek Tára* ~ Hungarian Scientific Publications Database). Information regarding open access and publication archiving of journals was based on DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), and was evaluated using the

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RoMEO database. RoMEO is a searchable database of publisher's policies regarding the self-archiving of journal articles on the web and in Open Access repositories (1). Current data regarding publication availability through author websites and repositories is based on Google Scholar search results.

Discussion

Repository usage, availability of theses

Upon submitting their BSc, MSc and PhD theses, students were asked to submit a copyright statement regarding the availability level of their work. The first copyright statements were made in 2010, therefore we analysed data from the past four years. Considering all theses, the data collected revealed the following: 18% of students permitted full-text online access, 32% permitted Intranet access, 2% permitted access through one dedicated computer (found in the library). Almost half of the students (i.e. 47%) did not permit any type of access to his/her thesis, or did not fill out the copyright statement which made publication of the thesis impossible.

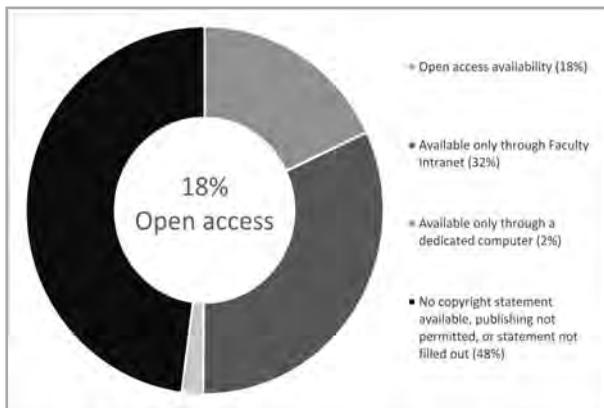


Fig. 1. Distribution of statements given by students (summary of four years).

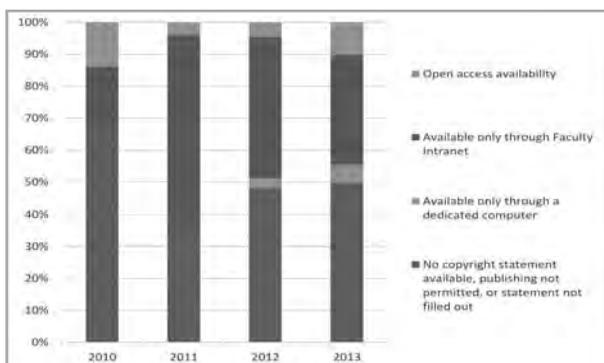


Fig. 2. Yearly distribution of statements given by students.

First year data significantly differs from the following years as 2011-2013 data showed a trend of growing numbers of open access availability. However, oddly enough, the number of theses which could not be published grew as well. Future Faculty and Library cooperation will be essential in order to change the latter trend. On the one hand, the Library could contribute by providing detailed information regarding the contents of the copyright statement, and also its purpose. On the other hand, there should be a more strict control at the Faculty upon receipt of the theses, making sure there is a statement filled out, and attached to each and every thesis submitted.

Having examined the willingness of authors to publish their work, in the following step we wanted to learn about the most popular contents, and their availability. To that end, we examined the use of HuVetA between October 4th, 2012 and April 6th, 2014 based on statistics provided by Google Analytics.

When examining the most popular contents, we narrowed our statistics to BSc, MSc theses and PhD dissertation sites in HuVetA. Focusing on the top 50 hits, results showed that 40% did not permit publication or did not fill out the statement, followed by 34% of OA availability. Since the statistics did not allow for linking particular site visits to specific IP addresses, unfortunately we could not establish the number of people who could actually view the full text of the theses (e.g. via intranet) they were searching for.

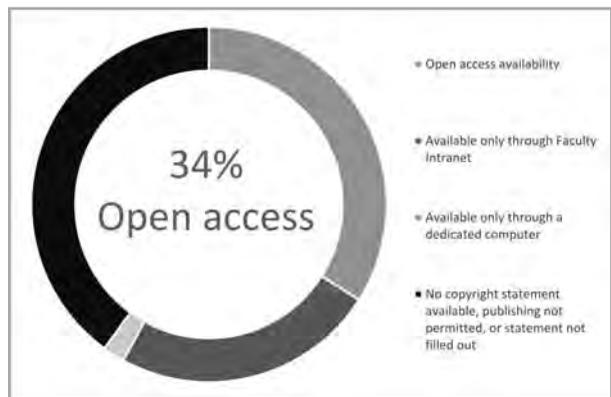


Fig. 3. Accessibility distribution of the 50 most popular theses.

We also checked the time elapsed between the upload to the repository, and the first viewing of the theses in question. We found that the first viewing was in all cases within a few days after the upload.

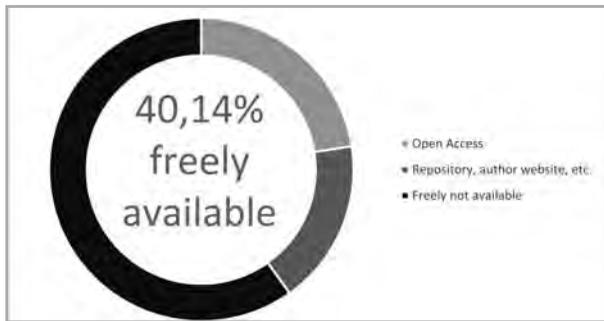


Fig. 5. What is the proportion of publications freely available on the Internet (using solely Google Scholar basic search to find an article)?

DOAJ. 55% of the articles were published in journals found on the Basic list of veterinary medical serials, third edition (2), and just a little more than half of these articles were published in *Acta Veterinaria Hungarica*. Overall, English-language Hungarian periodicals made up almost one third of all the publications examined. As far as the HuVetA repository was concerned, one of the main questions was aimed at identifying the proportion of articles the authors of which had the possibility for self-archiving.

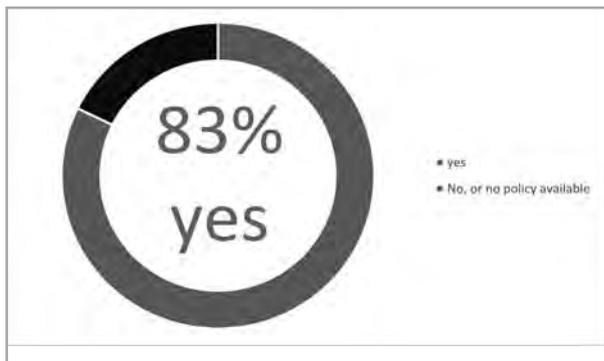


Fig. 6. Any type of author self-archiving allowed?

According to RoMEO database data, in 83% of the cases self-archiving is available to authors. We compared article citations as well, and were surprised to learn that the articles receiving most citations were the ones self-archived, i.e. published in repositories, social networks,

and author websites (average: 3.84; median: 2.5). The number of citations received by OA and non-OA articles was almost equal (OA: average: 2.94; median: 1; non-OA: average: 2.96; median: 1).

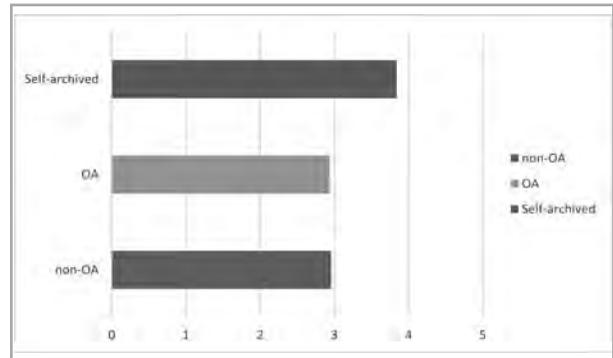


Fig. 7. Average number of citations received by publications based on MTMT (up until April 6th, 2014).

Conclusion

The study points out two important tasks for us:

1. Students need to be better prepared to fill out the copyright statement, i.e. they must have a clear understanding of what OA and the rest of the options mean.

It is surprising to us that a generation brought up in a world of mobiles, tablets, laptops, and the internet does not take seriously the decision concerning their own theses and their online accessibility. They do so even though in the past few years most of them have used full text theses available through HuVetA when trying to access recent theses at least half of which are available in full text on campus. Preparing and informing students about the options available to them, discussing real and presumed dangers, advantages and disadvantages would help the next generation of researchers and teachers be more prepared for and open-minded towards OA.

2. We need to call the attention of Faculty leaders to the fact that in 83% of the cases there was an option for self-archiving for newly published faculty publications. This would be an excellent opportunity for us to use the MTMT (Hungarian Scientific Publications Database), the bibliographic database presenting the scholarly activity of the Faculty, along with our repository to represent academic performance.

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