

ASG The Transformation of Scholarly Communication

The aim of this ASG is to create a platform for discussing changes in scholarly communication practices in an inter-disciplinary environment in order to achieve an increased understanding of these processes, and how they affect not only research practices but also increasingly become an important part of research policy and management.

Scholarly communication has gone through big changes over the last few decades: the transformation to digital formats, the consolidation of the publishing market where a few large companies now dominate the market, the ambition to make scholarly knowledge more openly accessible (Open Access and Free Access to Research Data) and the increased use of bibliometric analyses for evaluating research (e.g. Borgman, 2007; de Rijcke et al., in press, Haider & Åström, in press).

While the discussion on scholarly communication traditionally has been focused on publications, nowadays, the issue of communicating research data and software for data analysis has come into attention in a new way (e.g. Czarnitzki et al., 2015). This is reflected in how for instance research funders request data management plans and journal publishers like PLoS mandate a data availability statement from their authors. Also, publication related statistics are increasingly used for evaluating research and allocating research funds. Thus, scholarly publishing needs to be considered as being both a system for scholarly communication and a system for academic merit and reward (Cronin, 2005; Frohmann, 2004).

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