Effects of Open Access on research(er) visibility at the University of Liège

Graphics courtesy of Paul Thirion
http://hdl.handle.net/2268/175055
OA advantages

Visibility is one of OA biggest advantage

How to know if visibility works?
By observing the side effects: usages, citations, downloads...

Real examples with the ULg’s OA platforms.
Open Access @ ULg

Many years of experience on multiple platforms

ULg Open Repository & Bibliography
http://orbi.ulg.ac.be

ULg & local partners
Digitalized objects
http://donum.ulg.ac.be

ULg & University St Louis
Publication Portal of Scientific journals
http://popups.ulg.ac.be/

Renaville, F (et. al) (2012). L'Open Access en Belgique francophone
http://hdl.handle.net/2268/124876
ULg mandate

It is mandatory for every member of the ULg to add in ORBi:

- The bibliographic references of scientific publications and communications *soon as it is accepted* by the publisher.
- **Full text** must be joined to the reference for every scientific article published since 2002.
- Every *doctoral thesis* must be added to ORBi **PRIOR its defense** at the ULg, and joined by all or part of the full text, with at least the abstract and the table of contents.

The level of access is determined by the authors in respect of the publisher’s policy and with the co-authors agreement.

Only the publications on ORBi will be considered for the evaluations or internal procedures by the ULg or FNRS.

If it is not in ORBi, it doesn’t exist.
How much do we publish?

Before asking if the publications are visible, we need to know what we publish and how many.

Estimation before ORBi
- 3000-3500/year based on Scopus, Web of Science, Medline...

Observed in ORBi
- +/-9400/year!! \( \rightarrow \) 134,000 references (61% with full text)
  \( \rightarrow \) not only scholarly articles

We publish much more than what we thought!

ORBi was released in 2008, all the authors didn’t start to deposit immediately, so some publications are missing for the past years.

Why such a difference?
Non coverage of international databases

Congress and symposium, thesis, books, chapters... are not referenced in Scopus, WoS, or PubMed (or not much)
aka a big part of the production is not visible through commercials databases

Coverage
• 84% of WoS is in ORBi
• Many publication or communications are in ORBi and not in Scopus/WoS.
When do authors deposit?

Distribution of new references in ORBi compare to the publication date

- 54.3 % BEFORE
- 13.9 % publication date
- 31.8 % AFTER

In average
- 44.7 days BEFORE

Authors want to be cited
To be cited they need to be visible
The faster, the better...

Why?
Citable and visible sooner!

ULg library
Impact in citations

Comparison between publications in Scopus/WoS only with publications also in ORBi

Much more citations for publications also in ORBi!

The high coverage may influence the analysis

Cannot be cited if not visible
Who is reading the publications?

- +1000 downloads/day
- Excluding bots & automatic robots

Careful with China, lots of bots undetected at first

How did they find us?
The google effect

Google did changed the search algorithm so we needed to adapt our referencing as well

- Google made the full text directly accessible in the results!
- No full text = less visibility

Downloads by month (2011-2015)

Visibility come from web search engines
Does open access increase it?

ULg library
Impact of OA on downloads

Mean number of downloads for 2008-2014 references
(measured December 2014 on 1,656,775 downloads of 20,212 references with FT)

- **Total downloads**: 81.97 for Open Access vs. 3.61 for Restricted Access (22.7 times more)
- **From ULg**: 4.50 for Open Access vs. 1.48 for Restricted Access
- **From outside**: 77.47 for Open Access vs. 2.14 for Restricted Access (36.2 times more)

Publications in open access are also more downloaded than those in restricted access.

**Full text is good for visibility, OA is much better**

ULg library
Only because it’s mandatory?

ULg members respect the mandate... and go further

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Since 2002</th>
<th>Scholarly articles</th>
<th>Other document types</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100% with FT of which 43% OA</td>
<td>49% with FT of which 63% OA</td>
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<table>
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<th>Before 2002</th>
<th>Scholarly articles</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51% with FT of which 49% OA</td>
<td>25% with FT of which 71% OA</td>
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FT not mandated:
- For 54.2% of references

OA not mandated:
- For 33.2% of references

Authors will not waste time to deposit more than requested if they didn’t have an advantage to do so

ULg library
Others success @ ULg

- PoPuPS: a portal for diffusion of open access journals published by ULg members
  
  http://popupul.ac.be

  → 2 serials obtained an IF since they are hosted on PoPuPS!

  → University of St Louis decided to join us

- Pochet, B (2015) Comprendre et maîtriser la littérature scientifique
  
  http://hdl.handle.net/2268/186181

  → one of the best download in ORBi

  → also the best seller of the faculty!
Others side effects

• For the researchers
  International collaborations: visible for potential teams/partners who can see what have been done already and propose collaborations

• For labs/faculty/department
  A way to promote their works and show their strengths (pool of excellence)

• For the institution
  International recognition, comparison with others institutions (ranking), long term preservation of its own production
Missions of an open access repository (and OA in general)

Visibility – Preservation – Centralization – Valorization of the institution’s publications and communications

And more…

Some examples of other use of a repository

– Monitoring tools for analyzes of collaborations, citations, pool of excellence...
– Inclusion of publication’s list in any web page (widget)
– Publications reports: personal, for departments, for faculties
– Sharing: web, mail, social media
– Bibliometric: using different indicators, not just 1 linked to a specific platform
– Personal/global statistics of visualizations, downloads
– Integrated request print system (request button)
– Diffusions of additional materials non published
– ….
Let’s see

http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/homenews?id=32
Questions, suggestions, (in)formations...

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ULg library