Open Access: A Southern European Perspective

Eloy Rodrigues
Director University of Minho Documentation Services
eloy@sdum.uminho.pt
http://repositorium.sdum.uminho.pt

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Agenda

- Introduction and Background
- Open Access in South Europe
- OA Access in Portugal - The RCAAP Project
- Final remarks
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Introduction and Background

- Defining South Europe…
  - We will consider the six countries represented in *Open access in Southern European Countries* report
  - They have important differences in size, population, political structure, GDP, research output, scientific and academic systems organization, Open Access awareness and initiatives….
  - … but share some common characteristics on scientific publishing and scholarly communication…
Common Features

- Importance of the national languages on scholarly communication and science dissemination;
- Predominance of publications (journals and monographs) from Social Sciences and Humanities;
- Commercial publishers are not numerous and are responsible for just a small part of the scholarly publications.
OA in Southern Europe

- Seminar for Open Access to Science Information: Policies for the development of OA in Southern Europe, organized by FECYT and CBUC, and held in Granada in May 2010:
  - Alhambra Declaration
  - Open Access in Southern European Countries - containing national reports for the six countries

http://oaseminar.fecyt.es/Publico/report
OA and book publishing

- France
  - Several initiatives on Open Access monographs:
    - University Press of Lyon (on OAPEN)
    - Cleo (Revues.org/OpenEdition.org) – 13 book collections from various publishers (College de France, University of Rennes, Agone publishing…)
  - Book digitization initiatives:
    - Persée
    - Gallica
OA and book publishing

- Greece
  - Most of book publication still print only
  - Predominance of Humanities and Social Sciences, with titles in Natural & Applied Sciences representing around 5% of the total
  - Growing number of ebook publishers and distributors (16), but only 1 offering OA ebooks
  - OA books as part of digitization programs and wider digital collections
OA and book publishing

- Italy
  - Number of scholarly OA monographs is slowly increasing
  - University Presses
    - ESE Salento University Publishing (University of Lecce)
      published 240 OA ebooks
    - Firenze University Press (FUP), member of OAPEN.
  - Some Italian commercial publishers are also experimenting with OA publishing: CLUEB in Bologna, Polimetrica (OA+POD), LED edizioni (OA+POD)
OA and book publishing

- Portugal
  - Some experiments on OA book publishing

- Spain
  - No relevant initiatives identified

- Turkey
  - No relevant initiatives identified
The Portuguese scientific and research system was small and underdeveloped until the end of the 20th century. On the last decade the number of researchers and scientific output (number of journal articles referenced on ISI) has been growing at an annual rate bigger than 10%.
Evolution of Open Access in Portugal

- The early developments of Open Access in Portugal were mainly driven by Universities, with several initiatives to promote the visibility and access to their scientific output;
- The first initiatives were lead by Minho University, with the creation of its institutional repository RepositóriUM;
- Despite the creation of the Portuguese section of Scielo (in 2005), OA development in Portugal is being focused in institutional repositories
- 8 repositories created until 2008
**RCAAP Project**

### Goals
- Promote visibility and accessibility to the Portuguese scientific output
- Improve access to information about national scientific output
- Integrate Portugal into international initiatives

### Governance
- UMIC – Knowledge Society Agency (Political support and funding)
- POSC (Funding agency)
- FCCN (General and Infrastructures)
- UMinho (Scientific and Technical)

### Services
- RCAAP Portal and validator
- SARI – IR’s in SaaS regime
- Communication, awareness, training
- Advocacy and Networking
Services - RCAAP portal

Flavour of Arc Software

OAI-PMH Data Provider

RCAAP - Repositório Científico de Acesso Aberto de Portugal
Growth of RCAAP Portal
Work in 2010

- Blimunda Project (Portuguese Journals Self-Archiving Policies – Sherpa/Romeo)
- Implementing OpenAIRE Guidelines (Dspace OAI-Extended Addon)
- Portuguese-Brazilian OA Project
- Pilot project on open data & repositories
Work in 2011

- Hosting service for Open Access Journals, SaaS model, using OJS
- Aggregated usage statistics
- Study in digital preservation
OA and Book publication in Portugal

- Majority of Portuguese Universities have book publishing activities, and some have “University Presses”

- The total number of books published is small (probably around 100 titles in 2010), the printed edition is predominant, and the majority of titles are from Social Sciences and Humanities

- There are already some experiments (UBI, Uporto,…) on OA monograph publishing (Printed Version for sale + Online OA version), representing less than 20% of the published titles

- Most of Portuguese University Presses don’t publish OA monographs and are/were not planning to do it shortly

- There is an Association of Portuguese University Presses – APEES - Associação Portuguesa de Editoras do Ensino Superior - www.apees.pt
Final remarks

- OA books publishing is not yet common in Portugal (and some other southern European countries) and the print format is still dominant (in some cases it is almost exclusive).

- But considering:
  - The importance of Social Sciences and Humanities on the national research and scholarly communication systems.
  - That most publishing is made by non-profit organizations (UPs).
  - That in SS&H publication is mainly on the national languages.
  - The potential readership for Portuguese (as well as Spanish) books outside Europe (Latin America, Africa, …).

- OA book publishing seems a very adequate strategy and will certainly be increasingly used in the coming years.
Final remarks

- RCAAP project may broaden its activities to the area of OA monograph publishing in the future:
  - Promoting and disseminating best practices and recommendations or guidelines;
  - Liaising with relevant, national and international, initiatives and organizations (OAPEN, APEES, AEUP, etc.);
  - Offering infrastructure / platform for OA book publishing ??
Thank you!

eloy@sdum.uminho.pt
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