Why Overlay Journals for University Repositories May Increase the Visibility of Research in Small Scientific Communities

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Introduction

• The scientific publishing world is changing rapidly

• Many universities have moved to the role of the creators of digital publishing platforms
An overlay journal is a journal that does not publish any original articles but rather selects articles that exist elsewhere, adds certain value to the selection, and publishes the results as a service to its user base (Van de Sompel et al.).

The purpose:
- to add a guarantee of quality to the existing content by providing peer review
- to transform the repository into a proper scholarly publishing medium
ST-OPEN

• A new type of overlay journals that has a broad multidisciplinary scope
• Promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration across university schools and departments
• Focus: graduate student research

student

city of Split

diamond model

graduation thesis
Aims

• **1\textsuperscript{st} aim:** practical training of students in scientific publishing
  • *This will prepare future researchers for their research/academic careers*

• **2\textsuperscript{nd} aim:** to increase scientific production and global visibility for the scholarly research of the University of Split
  • *Graduation theses will be transformed into the scientific paper and translated to English*
University of Split
Senate

Oversight committee:
Five members appointed by the Senate

Editorial Board

ST-OPEN Editorial Office
Editor-in-Chief
Deputy Editor-in-Chief
Technical Editor
Translator

One teacher from each faculty or department
Director of the library
President of the Student Board

Advisory Board:
5-10 members proposed by the Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board

Local Boards

University of Split faculties
University Library
Student Assembly

Student Board:
One student from each faculty; delegated by the Student Assembly

Structure and organisation:
Editorial Team

EDITORIAL OFFICE
• Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Technical Editor

EDITORIAL BOARD
• Our editorial board is large, including at least one member from each faculty
• “Satellite” academic editorial boards can be formed at each faculty

STUDENT BOARD
• Education and dissemination
Editorial policies

- ST-OPEN focuses on selecting and peer reviewing graduation theses
- National repository of all bachelor and master theses
- University of Split: 16 departmental repositories + University Library
- The ST-OPEN editors work with the authors, using the author-helpful policy developed by Croatian Medical Journal

Other Croatian universities
Editorial process

- There are three ways how ST-OPEN acquires manuscript submissions:
  1. Documents deposited in DABAR selected by the Editorial Board
  2. Articles selected by the editors, recommendation from an expert source, and an offer of a DABAR document by its author(s)
  3. Direct submission of a manuscript to the ST-OPEN, in exceptional cases
1. Editorial selection

• Editors first select potentially interesting DABAR documents for consideration

• The editors insist only that the work is original and interesting

• The authors are then invited for cooperation in transforming the document into a scientific article

• The process is done in Croatian
2. Intramural review

• The original manuscript in Croatian is entered in the journal’s OJS program and sent for an official intramural review.

• The review is performed by the Editorial Board members or experts + students.

• The authors are expected to keep their submission with the ST-OPEN until the final decision of the editor.

• It is an educational phase and the editors offer necessary assistance in editing the manuscript.
3. Extramural review

• After the first peer review step, the article is translated into English and sent out for external peer review

• The review process is single blinded

• If the reviews are not unfavourable, the article is sent back for eventual revisions

• After acceptance, the manuscript is deposited in DABAR and published in ST-OPEN
1. Student selects the theme and writes the master's thesis with the mentor

2. Defended thesis enters the Repository (University Library)

3. The Editorial Board (EB) and/or Editor-in-Chief search and select the thesis from the Repository

4. Conversion to the article. Student, mentor, member of the EB, and Editor-in-Chief work on the article

5. The thesis becomes the article written in Croatian

6. Intramural review (acceptance, revision, rejection)

7. Translation of the article into English

8. Extramural review (acceptance, revision, rejection)

9. Publication of the scientific article on the ST-OPEN website
Citing literature

• Because of its multidisciplinary profile, ST-OPEN accepts two styles of literature citing:
  1. Vancouver style
  2. APA style

• The authors are free to choose one of the styles and should then strictly adhere to it
Data management

- ST-OPEN follows Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable.
- Depositing raw data and metadata related to the results reported in a submitted manuscript are strongly encouraged.
- The use of DABAR data repository is strongly encouraged.
Conclusion

• Some 2000 students per year graduate from the University

• Good result: to transform 10% of theses into research articles

• Without ST-OPEN, most of this work would never be published outside the theses written in Croatian

• ST-OPEN Work in progress
More info

• Webpage: http://st-open.unist.hr/

• The full text of the article describing ST-OPEN is published in the European Science Editing
  • Marušić M, Tomić V, Gudelj D, Wager E, Marušić A. University repository overlay journal - increasing the quality and visibility of student research at the University of Split, Croatia. European Science Editing. 2019;45(2):39-41
Thank you