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The European National Academies as academic publishers

SCH Workshop “Changing Publication Cultures in the Humanities”
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Academies of Sciences and Humanities in the European research landscape

- ▶ debate: as *learned societies* exchange of ideas on research and research-related issues;
- ▶ advise: as “*think tanks*” address science policy and topical societal issues;
- ▶ support (for excellence): award *grants, fellowships and prizes* and are involved in evaluation;
- ▶ promote: **science communication**, science education and outreach;
- ▶ produce: *research institutes* and infrastructures



ALLEA Membership:

- ▶ 53 national academies from 40 countries (Council of Europe)
- ▶ Founded in 1994
- ▶ Interacts with global inter-academy networks, including:
 - ICSU: International Council of Science (for SocSci notably: IHDP; ISSC)
 - IAP/IAC (science academies only)
 - UAI: Union Académique Internationale (classical Humanities)



Changing publication cultures

(some of the questions at the origin)

- ▶ The role of scholarly monographs in evaluations of Humanities
(< focus on journals elsewhere; wrong focus for ERIH?)
- ▶ New assessment regimes leave
(< less and less time for production and consumption of monographs: authorship / readership)
- ▶ Internationalisation of “science” (also: global Humanities)
(< role of national languages?)
- ▶ Technological advances (< digital revolution)
(> changing reading habits, changing hermeneutics?)
(> return to hunter-gatherer humanities?)



Changing publication cultures

(some of the subsequent reflections)

- ▶ Change:
 - time: “half-life” (interdisciplinarity?);
 - place: global Humanities <connectedness> (national foundations?)
 - actors: authors; readership (impact?); “publishers”
- ▶ Publication: publishing & public
(scholarly / scientific communication)
- ▶ Culture:
 - proposal
 - product



Changing framework conditions

ALLEA's semi-permanent expert Standing Committees
and goal-oriented Working Groups...

- reflect on / analyse the changing framework conditions for “doing research” in Europe;
- make recommendations to political domain (and sometimes to scientific communities themselves);
- elaborate and propose tools developed “by scientists for scientists” to ensure the scientific domain continues as much as possible to be self-regulated (e.g.: science ethics; IPR; evaluation etc.).

In this context :

- Work on research infrastructures;
- Work on scholarly publishing and Open Access

Challenging framework conditions for Humanities publishing in Europe



Data:

- survey of 53 Member Academies on scholarly publishing (still running; as yet incomplete)
- discussions among MA's on Open Access (critical issues: role of learned societies; apparently unresolved IPR-related matters)
- some insights into national debates



Academies as academic publishers (some patterns):

- practically all 53 Member Academies are engaged in scholarly publishing (depending on types, also in the Humanities)
[HU: since 1828; since 1996 with WoltersKluwer; 59 journals, textbooks]
- practically all MA's also publish monographs in the respective national languages
[in several cases this is part of their mission]
- most MA's run scholarly publishing not as profit-making exercise
[important exception (and brake on joint OA activity) UK: journals published by the Royal Society of London]
[LT: income stays within publishing unit]
[exchange networks: AT over 1.000 partners in 82 countries]



Academies as academic publishers (some more patterns):

- most MA's typically very small publishing divisions
- many MA's practice some forms of outsourcing
[NL: totally decentralised, despite ECPA]
- many “research performing” MA's leave publishing activities to their institutes
1.000's of publications
(> based on central or competitive acquired grants)
[BG: varying quality, but also including highest standards (CMRC)]
- many MA's struggle with lack of central support under conditions of changing publication environments



Academies as academic publishers (still more patterns):

- few MA's are engaged in publishing/publisher networks:
 - Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
 - European Association of Science Editors
 - Federation of European Publishers
 - International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers
 - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
 - etc.
- typically only one per network
- Inconsistent efforts to have journals included in relevant databases and indices [LT: all; EE: in Humanities/SocSci most indices, incl. WoS and Scopus, but not ERIH: interdiscipinarity]
- poor to no exchange of knowledge on scholarly publishing among MA's

Academies as academic publishers (some patterns re Open Access and related issues):

- many MA's (but by far not all) have discussed, few have signed up to relevant declarations, few practice or actively encourage OA publishing (practically never for monographs)
[encourage: financial and/or technical support; debates and training]
[DE: Working Group electronic publishing; CH; AT: manual; e-books]
- Few academy publishers have functioning relationship with relevant digital repositories (very few have significant DR's themselves)
[EE: transfer of digital data to national library]
[CEJSH]
[SE (KVHAA): pdf to author with encouragement to enter it into DR]
- Practically no MA has reflected on / acted on possible link between publishing activity and research infrastructures: linguistics; archaeology etc.



Challenging framework conditions for Humanities publishing in Europe and the role of the National Academies

- Can Academies make better use of the technological advances (OA; DR; RI): sharing experiences?
- Can Academies develop new models for financing scholarly monographs: research performing agencies?
- Can Academies develop evaluation frameworks that do not discourage the use of national languages for Humanities, while improving international visibility of Humanities research (linguae francae)?
- Can Academies define appropriate quality criteria for good outreach publications (wider appeal of Humanities as equivalent of “science & society” remit in the hard sciences)?