



medanet
Mediterranean Open Access Network



OPEN ACCESS TURKEY

NATIONAL OPEN ACCESS WORKSHOP REPORT

NOVEMBER 8-9, 2012

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY, ANKARA, TURKEY



INTRODUCTION

Hosted by Hacettepe University, the Turkish National Open Access Workshop took place in Ankara, Turkey, from November 8-9, 2012. The workshop was part of the Mediterranean Open Access Network (MedOANet) project (www.medoanet.eu) supported by the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (7FP) and organized by Hacettepe University's Department of Information Management, a partner of the MedOANet project, in cooperation with Izmir Institute of Technology, a partner of the Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe (OpenAIRE) plus project (www.openaire.eu).

The two-day workshop comprised the following types of contributions: invited talks; presentations by the country coordinators of the MedOANet and OpenAIREplus projects and by the Open Access and Institutional Repositories (AEKA) Working Group of the Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS); a practical session on setting up and institutional repository (IR) using DSpace; and presentations on various OA-related issues (e.g., copyright, Creative Commons licenses, open courseware) related with Open Access (OA). The workshop programme is available at http://www.acikerisim.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/ae2012_program_en.pdf along with the presentation slides at <http://www.acikerisim.org/calistay-sunumlari/>.

The national workshop on OA drew about 200 participants from various sectors (two thirds represented research performing organizations (RPOs), 15% public institutions and 20% publishers, database producers, aggregators and students). A declaration on OA and IRs was issued at the end of the workshop. What follows is a brief summary of the workshop activities.

After the opening speeches, the workshop proper started with **Alicia López Medina**'s keynote speech on Open Science challenges and opportunities for IRs. In her capacity as the Executive Director of the Confederation of the Open Access Repositories (COAR) representing more than 100 institutions worldwide, Medina first shared her views on Open Science and stressed that in order to make science and research more efficient, transparent and trustworthy, publications and data resulting from publicly funded research should be made openly available and preserved for reuse through reliable, high performance and economically efficient infrastructures. Medina sees the key challenge as the researchers because they do not see the implementation of OA as their task although they sympathize with the cause, and their compliance rate is low (20%) without strong mandates. Medina concluded that a multi-faceted strategy is needed to populate the repositories and cites COAR's report on sustainable practices for populating repositories (<http://tinyurl.com/coar-repository-content>) recommending researcher advocacy, use of usage statistics to encourage deposits, rights checking and submission services, linking repositories with performance assessment and research databases, full-text harvesting, and direct deposit by publishers. Medina stressed that OA repositories around the world need to operate on similar policies and use similar data schemas to make the content available to researchers in a seamless manner using a world-wide interconnected and interoperable repository network. Medina sees interoperability as a "technical glue" to interconnect different repositories and information systems, to interoperate with them or embed in components of e-infrastructures for research, to transfer metadata and digital objects, to create new services on top of repositories along with new tools, and to generate new information and knowledge.

Izaskun Lacunza, the Executive Director of the European Association of Research Libraries (LIBER), was the second keynote speaker with a paper entitled “Research Libraries as Drivers of Open Access to Research Outputs”. Lacunza first introduced LIBER briefly (425 institutional members from 40 countries including 20 from Turkey) and concentrated on LIBER’s involvement with and participation in OA initiatives and EU projects dealing with content (e.g., Europeana), infrastructure (e.g., APARSEN and ODE), and policies (e.g., MedOANet) in Europe. Lacunza also reviewed OA issues in Horizon 2020 and stressed that LIBER strongly believes in OA to research outputs as a means to build the European Research Area (ERA) and to encourage Open Scholarship and Open Knowledge, and collaborates with COAR and SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) in building a pro-OA policy-making atmosphere and a research infrastructure to support it. LIBER lobbies to promote OA policies in Europe, explores new business models for OA, supports the portal for 360,000 e-theses from 523 institutions of 27 countries (DART), and works for research libraries to be identified as the key stakeholders in the research data management. Lacunza also discussed the details of the League of European Research Universities’ (LERU) roadmap towards OA involving both green and gold routes and emphasized that OA needs to be viewed in the wider context of Open Scholarship and Open Knowledge.

The third keynote speaker was **Ebru Başak** of the Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council (TUBITAK) who is involved in the e-InfraNet project in her capacity as one of the EU Framework Programs Officer. Başak introduced the e-InfraNet Project which aims to build a network to develop and strengthen cooperation between national e-infrastructures and their integration in the European Research Area (ERA) by paying special attention to OA issues. She then summarized EU’s approach to e-science and scientific data along with some information on EU-supported OA projects (e.g., OpenAIRE), thematic data repositories (e.g., IMPACT and NDMB) and user communities, and stressed that clear policies should be developed to provide open access to publicly funded research outputs through e-infrastructures and that organizational and financial models along with copyright and intellectual property legislation should be introduced/ revised to support OA and reward complying researchers.

Yaşar Tonta, the MedOANet project country coordinator, reviewed the current developments in Turkey with regards to OA and IRs and shared the findings of the MedOANet questionnaire survey carried out earlier during the year. Tonta observed that the number of registered IRs in Turkey (and the records and full-text items therein) is far fewer than those of other partner Mediterranean countries and that OA policies and strategies have yet to be developed. He summarized the MedOANet activities carried out so far in Turkey, including the formation of the National OA Task Force, publishing and disseminating the MedOANet brochure, and issuing a note on OA to scientific information and IRs and sending it to policy-makers and research funders. He then provided detailed information on OA and IR scene in Turkey based on the MedOANet survey filled out by the research funders, research performing organizations and publishers. Tonta stressed that Turkey should take the initiative and develop effective OA and IR policies and strategies to reap the benefits of publicly funded research and to be part of the European e-infrastructure for OA and ERA.

Gültekin Gürdal, the OpenAIREplus project country coordinator, introduced the project’s objectives and strategies. OpenAIREplus is the EU-supported OA infrastructure to share scientific publications and linked data through digital network of OA archives and IRs. It harvests the research output of

EU-supported projects (7FP) along with the contents of about 340 IRs in 44 countries, index them and provide search functionality for more than six million records through the OpenAIREplus portal. Currently, Turkey has 550 such projects running, 80 of which fall into the themes specified under article 39 of the OA Pilot. By participating in OpenAIREplus, Turkey aims to integrate with the participative European infrastructure so that it can share the outcome of EU-supported projects with other European nations and the world.

Members of the Open Access and Institutional Repositories (AEKA) Working Group of the Anatolian University Libraries Consortium (ANKOS) presented a live demo of setting up and implementing an institutional repository system using DSpace (ver. 1.7.0) running on Ubuntu (ver. 10.10) operating system.

The second day of the national OA workshop included presentations on Creative Commons licenses and its relationship with OA (**İlkay Holt** of Özyeğin University), OA and copyright (**Sami Çukadar** of Bilgi University), OA journals and citation indexes in Turkey (**Ramazan Acun** of TUBITAK's National Academic Network and Information Center), Open Courseware (**Orçun Madran** of Atılım University) and a discussion of how to set up an institutional repository led by ANKOS' AEKA Group. In the afternoon, a four-member panel, chaired by Gültekin Gürdal, discussed the use of Open Journal System (OJS) to publish an OA journal (**Sönmez Çelik** of Doğu University) along with access to OA journals using Metadata Harvesting Protocol (MHP) and service providers (**Uğur Bulgan** of Süleyman Demirel University) and the conversion of a print journal to an e-journal (**Kamil Çömlekçi** of TED Ankara College).

The workshop concluded with the discussion of the declaration of OA and IRs drafted by the representatives of the MedOANet and OpenAIREplus projects and made available online during the discussion (<http://www.acikerisim.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ulusal-acik-erisim-calistayi-sonuc-bildirgesi-jenerik.pdf>). The two-page declaration acknowledged the trends and issues relevant to OA and IRs (e.g., making better use of public money, increasing the visibility and impact of scientific research, carrying out e-science projects and managing "big data" more effectively) and recommended, among others, the following:

- access to publicly-funded research outcomes (both publications and data) should be free;
- IRs conforming to the standards and interoperability guidelines should be set up and maintained;
- A national OA archive should collect/harvest OA articles, publicly-funded project reports, theses and open educational materials originated in Turkey and provide free access thereto;
- The e-infrastructure and platforms should be developed to provide OA to scientific publications and data housed in IRs;
- Policies, strategies and legislation dealing with e-science, e-infrastructure, OA and IRs should be developed and Turkey's integration with the ERA infrastructure should be speeded up;
- Issues dealing with OA and IRs should be brought before the Higher Education Council (HEC), TUBITAK, the Supreme Council of Science and Technology and the Parliament, and the needed laws and legislation should be enacted;

- IRs should be an integral part of e-science and e-infrastructure;
- OA should be a prerequisite to benefit from publicly funded research support (including EU funds);
- The awareness of OA and IRs should be increased and the research funders, researchers, publishers, information managers and users should be informed.

The audience provided input to the declaration during the workshop and their comments were duly recorded. The two-day workshop ended with the closing speech of Yaşar Tonta who summarized the major issues raised during the workshop and encouraged input to the final declaration by recording their comments through the web site.

Note: The declaration was finalized by taking into account all the comments gathered during and after the workshop, and it was sent to the HEC, the Interuniversities Council, TUBITAK, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology, Ministry of Development, and the Parliament.

