Open Journal Systems servers in the Nordic Countries in 2015

Jesper Boserup Thestrup

Abstract

This article shows that Universities operate most of the OJS-servers in the Nordic countries and that the universities often chooses to let the university libraries maintain the service. Only few publishers and other organizations do appear to use the software.

Introduction

The State and University Library in Aarhus has operated an Open Journal Systems Server (OJS-server) since 2008[1]. In the same period, other research libraries, institutions, and universities in Denmark did establish publishing services based on OJS-servers. The usage of OJS-servers in the Nordic countries has increased in a similar manner. In this article, I will give a description of the Nordic countries, how many journals these servers publish and describe which kind of institutions are operating the servers. By this, I hope to take a "snapshot" of the Nordic OJS-servers, which can be used for further investigation.

To find and describe the individual servers is not an easy task. Some servers are experimental and do disappear very quickly. Some publishing services are placed outside the Nordic counties, but are operated by publishers or institutions inside the Nordic countries. In order to give a "snapshot" of the Nordic servers I will list OJS-servers operated inside a Nordic country and services offered by Nordic institutions and publishers using OJS-server located outside the Nordic countries. Should you know of a server which I have not included please do contact me, so that I can update my data.

To define an active journal is also rather problematic. The organization developing the OJS-software is Public Knowledge Project (PKP)[2] . PKP does offer some usage statistics[3]. PKP did find 32.000 journals online on OJS-servers. Many of these seemed to be empty. By that, PKP means that the journals "have not been used for anything and do not contain any content"[4].

Only 17.941 of the 32.000 journals did offer at least one article. In order to ensure that they only did measure reasonably active publications PKP defined that only journals which had published 10 articles or more in 2014 should be included. PKP concluded that there were 8.286 journals active on OJS-servers in 2014.

In this article, I will count every journal on the Nordic servers. A survey like the one PKP used would register too few journals. Many of the journals are new and are just preparing to publish. Others are journals, which

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[1] http://ojs.statsbiblioteket.dk/

[2] http://pkp.sfu.ca/

[3] https://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs-usage/

[4] https://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs-usage/ Accessed on the 10/12 2015.

have stopped publishing but are available for the public on the OJS-server as a common good. Some journals only publish one issue per year, which not always contain 10 articles. You can find a rather updated list of the Nordic OJS-journals at the homepage of the project "Nordic Open Access Publishing"[5].

Because the focus of this article is to describe the servers in general I will not evaluate the quality of the journals, nor describe the scientific topic of the journals or if the journals are Open Access. Such accounts would be very interesting but will be outside the scope of this article.

Since my goal only is to list and describe the institutions operating the servers I will not describe the services and conditions the servers offer to the journals. I do hope to find time to do that in an upcoming article.

In order to describe the institutions operating the services I have divided them into a few categories. I did that to reflect the data I did collect. The categories are "Universities", "University Colleges", "Publishers", independent "Research Institutes", and finally "Scientific Societies and other scientific organizations". I did discover that many of the servers are linked to libraries so I did add a specific category for libraries: "University Library". The different institutions and organizations were placed in the categories according to their own description of themselves.

The data regarding the number of servers and journals was collected over a couple of years. I did last control the data for this article on January 4th 2016.

The Nordic OJS servers

Table 1 shows 32 OJS-servers in the Nordic counties. I have found most via the NOAP homepage. Some I learned of during my daily work with our OJS-server. Others I have found by pure chance via search on the internet. The 32 serves do publish 322 journals in all.

Table 1: The Nordic OJS-servers

Country	Servers	Journals
Denmark	7	127[6]
Finland	5	40
Iceland	3	9
Norway	9	67
Sweden	8[7]	79
In all	32	322

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[5] http://www.ub.uit.no/wiki/noap/index.php/Nordic_Journals_using_OJS

[6] Without three doublets on the servers of the State and University Library and Aalborg University Library

[7] Without the test server from University College of Borås.

Table 2 shows that the Danish servers generally are operated by university libraries. The first servers were online in late 2007 or early 2008.

Table 2: OJS-servers in Denmark

Name of service provider/journal	Type of Institution/publisher	Journals
Copenhagen Business School Library	University Library	12
Copenhagen Lutheran School of Theology	Independent theological institute	4
Journal of International Commercial Law and Technology[8]	International Association of IT Lawyers	1
The Royal Library	National and University Library	21
Roskilde University Library	University Library	16
The State and University Library	National and University Library	62[9]
Aalborg University Library	University Library	14

The development of the servers and a Danish user interface was done in close co-operation between different institutions and publisher. The OJS-software was chosen after a project financed by Danmarks Elektroniske Fag- og Forskningsbibliotek (DEFF)[10] in 2005 (Mikael K. Elbæk og Liv D. Fugl, 2005 and 2006) concluded that the OJS-software did cover all aspects of the publishing process and could be used for publication of Danish scientific journals. Following the recommendations in this report, several of the servers mentioned above where established, among them the server at the State and University Library (Thestrup and Frederiksen, 2012).

Today there is loose network where six of the seven servers exchange experiences, solutions and discuss possible developments in order to operate a service in a Danish scientific context. One of the libraries did in 2015 established a service based on PKP's software Open Monograph Press[11] (OMP) in order to be able to publish e-books via a software created on the experiences with OJS. You can find the server here http://ebooks.au.dk/index.php/aul

In 2015 a working group from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science did recommend that a national OJS-service for Danish scientific journals should be established (Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriet, 2015 and Nielsen, 2015). The service has been funded and is being prepared. You can find more information here: http://www.kb.dk/da/ml/service/National-Open-Access-Platform.html.

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[8] The Journal has an ISSN number registered in Denmark: 1901-8401

[9] Three of these will move completely to the server Aalborg University Library in 2016. The State and University Library did publish the journals until Aalborg University Library did establish its own service. The three journals are not included in table 1.

[10] Denmark's Electronic Research Library. http://www.deff.dk/

[11] https://pkp.sfu.ca/omp/

Table 3 shows the 5 Finnish OJS-servers publishing 40 journals.

Table 3: OJS-servers in Finland

Name of service provider/journal	Type of Institution/publisher	Journals
AMK-lehti // Journal of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences	Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences	4
ELORE by SKTS (Finnish Folklore Society)	Independent research institute	1
Natural Resources Institute Finland	Independent research institute	3
Tieteelliset verkkolehdet	Federation of Finnish Learned Societies	26
Åbo Akademi	University	6

Only one of the Finnish OJS-sever seems to be operated directly by a university. The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies operates the largest Finnish server, which is unique in this context.

Iceland is the Nordic country with fewest servers. Table 4 lists 3 servers publishing 9 journals. Eight of these journals are published on servers operated by universities.

Table 4: OJS-servers in Iceland

Name of service provider/journal	Type of Institution/publisher	Journals
Bifröst University	University	1
Íslenska þjóðfélagið	Icelandic Sociological Association	1
University of Iceland	University	7

As shown in table 1 Norway is the Nordic Country with most OJS-servers. Table 5 lists the 9 servers. Six of these servers are operated by university libraries or a university college library. Of the 67 journal published on the Norwegian OJS-servers 56 are published on these 6 servers.

Table 5: OJS-servers in Norway

Name of service provider/journal	Type of Institution/publisher	Journals
Agder University Library	University Library	5
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	University Library	5
Novus Forlag	Academic Publisher	9
Oslo and Akershus University College	University College. The Learning Centre and Library.	10
Scandinavian Journal of Optometry and Visual Science	The Norwegian Association of and The Swedish Association of Optometry.	1
Scandinavian Journal of Organizational Psychology	Scientific society: Norsk Organisasjonspsykologisk Selskap	1
The University Library of Tromsø	University Library	14
University of Bergen Library	University Library	10
University of Oslo Library	University Library	12

Sweden does as Finland show a different pattern of publishers. Table 6 shows 8 active servers and also the

test server of the University College of Borås, which until December did present a test journal. The 8 servers do publish 79 journals in total.

Table 6: OJS-servers in Sweden

Name of service provider/journal	Type of Institution/publisher	Journals
Co-Action	Publisher	35[12]
Halmstad University	University	1
Linnaeus University	University	2
Lund University	University	25
Swedish Science Pioneers	Publisher	6[13]
Umeå University Library	University Library	1
University College of Borås	University College	0[14]
University of Gothenburg - Gothenburg University Library	University Library	6
University of Stockholm Press	University press	3[15]

Six of the servers are operated by universities. Two are operated by publishers. The largest server in Sweden is operated by the publisher Co-Action (http://www.co-action.net/journals/). Only in Finland and Sweden the largest server is not operated by a university.

Table 7 shows the servers divided into type according to the operator. The table shows that most of the servers are operated by universities, 20 out of 32. The table also shows that publishing is seen as a service which the library can handle. 14 of the 21 serves operated by universities and university colleges are operated by the libraries of the institutions.

Table 7: The national servers divided by type of operator

Country	University	University College	University Library or University College Library	Research institute	Scientific Society or other kind of organization	Publisher	In all
Denmark	5	0	5	1	1	0	7
Finland	2	0	0	2	1	0	5
Iceland	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Norway	5	1	6	0	2	1	9
Sweden	6	0	3	0	0	2	8
In all	20	1	14	3	5	3	32

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[12] According to the homepage, four further journals have earlier been published on the server.

[13] Three of the journal have not published anything until December 2015.

[14] A test server. Until December 2015 it was possible to find a test journal published on the server.

[15] The service is operated via Ubiquity Press: http://www.ubiquitypress.com/

Table 8 shows how many journals are published on the servers divided by the type of operator. As in table 7 this shows that, universities publish most journals on OJS-servers, 224 out of 322. It does also underline the important role, which libraries have. 188 of the 322 journals are published on servers operated by university libraries and university college libraries.

Table 8: The journals divided by type of operator.

Country	University	University College	University Library or University College Library	Research institute	Scientific Society or other kind of organization	Publisher	In all
Denmark	122	0	122	4	1	0	127
Finland	10	0	0	4	26	0	40
Iceland	8	0	0	0	1	0	9
Norway	46	10	56	0	2	9	67
Sweden	38	0	10	0	0	41	79
In all	224	10	188	8	30	50	322

However, table 8 also shows that other publishers can play an important role. In Finland, the largest publisher is a scientific society and in Sweden, the largest publisher is a private publisher.

Conclusions

In a reasonable short period, the Nordic OJS-servers have grown to 32 servers with 322 publications online. Norway is the Nordic country with most OJS-servers – 9. Denmark has most publications online, 127. The largest server is currently the service offered by The State and University Library.

Universities operate most servers. They operate 20 of the 32 servers which publish 224 of the 322 publications. The universities seems to have chosen the libraries to handle this kind of publication service. At least 14 of the servers are operated by libraries, including the OJS-server from Oslo and Akershus University College. The 14 servers gives access to 188 publications.

Only few professional publishers and scientific institutions seem to use the OJS-software in the Nordic Countries. Among these categories especially the publisher Co-Action (with 35 journals) and the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (with 26 journals) must be noted.

The number of servers and journals online and the academic background of the institutions could ensure that the OJS-software will continue to be used in the Nordic countries in future to publish scientific literature. The fact that OJS was chosen as the software does underline that the OJS software as such will have a future in at least Denmark.

A recent study did show that in order to implement OA polices stakeholders must establish and operate different types of services. Among these publishing services. Here OJS was mentioned as a software platform (Johnson and Fosci, 2016, page 12-18). If OJS by universities in general will be seen as a preferred

open source publishing platform enabling researchers to publish high quality OA material OJS will be even more important as it is now.

Based on this simple account of the servers it would be interesting to explore other questions. It would be interesting to investigate the service given offered to the journals by the operators in order to give inspiration to the different intuitions, organizations, and libraries maintaining the servers. The number of servers and journals would make it possible to use the journals as a sample in order to investigate how the journals are affected by the possibility of online publication, retro digitalization, and the increasing demands of OA to articles.

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Appendix

In the appendixes, you can find lists showing the servers and their URL's.

Appendix 1: The Danish OJS-servers

Name of service provider	URL
Copenhagen Business School Library	http://ej.lib.cbs.dk/
Copenhagen Lutheran School of Theology	http://www.see-j.net/index.php/SEE-J
Journal of International Commercial Law and Technology	http://www.jiclt.com/index.php/jiclt
The Royal Library	https://tidsskrift.dk/
Roskilde University Library	http://ojs.ruc.dk/index.php/index/index
The State and University Library	http://ojs.statsbiblioteket.dk/
Aalborg University Library	http://journals.aau.dk/index.php/index/index

Appendix 2: The Finnish OJS-servers

Name of service provider/journal	URL
AMK-lehti // Journal of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences	http://www.uasjournal.fi/index.php/uasj/
ELORE by SKTS (Finnish Folklore Society)	http://www.elore.fi/index.html
Natural Resources Institute Finland	http://ojs.metla.fi/index.php/
Tieteelliset verkkolehdet	http://ojs.tsv.fi/index.php/
Åbo Akademi	http://ojs.abo.fi/index.php/

Appendix 3: The Islandic OJS-servers

Name of service provider/journal	URL
Bifröst University	http://bjss.bifrost.is/index.php/bjss/
Íslenska þjóðfélagið	http://thjodfelagid.is/index.php/Th
University of Iceland	http://ojs.hi.is

Appendix 4: The Norwegian OJS-servers

Name of service provider/journal	URL
Agder University Library	http://journal.uia.no/
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	http://www.ntnu.no/ojs/
Novus Forlag	http://ojs.novus.no/index.php/index/index
Oslo and Akershus University College	https://journals.hioa.no/
Scandinavian Journal of Optometry and Visual Science	http://www.sjovs.org/index.php/SJOVS
Scandinavian Journal of Organizational Psychology	http://sjop.no/index.php/sjop/
The University Library of Tromsø	http://septentrio.uit.no/
University of Bergen Library	https://boap.uib.no/index.php/
University of Oslo Library	https://www.journals.uio.no/index.php/

Appendix 5: The Swedish OJS-servers

Name of service provider/journal	URL
Co-Action	http://www.co-action.net/journals/
Halmstad University	https://ojs.hh.se/
Linnaeus University	https://journals.lnu.se/
Lund University	http://journals.lub.lu.se/
Swedish Science Pioneers	http://index.sciencepub.se/ojs/
Umeå University Library	http://ojs.ub.umu.se/
University College of Borås[16]	https://ojs.bib.hb.se/index.php
University of Gothenburg - Gothenburg University Library	http://ojs.ub.gu.se/ojs/
University of Stockholm Press	http://www.stockholmuniversitypress.se/site/journals/

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[16] As mentioned before it is a test server