

Ladies and Gentleman

Welcome to this year's Symposium of the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries.

We have all experienced, from our individual professional points of view, that work in the academic sector has changed noticeably over the last few years. Many libraries are fighting with reduced budgets and increasing offers and costs for academic publications. New products in databases, ebooks and new journals are upcoming.

On the other hand we recognize a new Open Access wave, which is part of a wider international open science movement:

- green road and repositories are more and more common in swiss universities
- alternative OA concepts like "Science Matters" of Lawrence Rajendran have startet
- gold road open access models are offered by many publishers (pure and hybrid journals)

This are only a few aspects of an upcoming fundamental change in academic publication system, which might have fundamental consequences for reseachers, libraries and publishers.

The most radical, innovative and much talked-about form of licensing and publishing, Open Access offsetting deals, is one of the main drivers in a very dynamic field of various conventional and Big Deal licences. This is also one of the main topics of the LERU (League of European Research Universities) statement in October 2015. The Netherlands are already actively pursuing nationwide Open Access deals on a great scale. Should Switzerland follow now, what consequences are there to consider, how do publishers think? What are

new tasks and roles for libraries, consortia, researchers, and publishers under this circumstances?

We all agree that a nationwide sophisticated strategy towards Open Access is crucial for a productive approach, feasible results and lasting agreements. We are therefore pleased to have Mrs Gabi Schneider from Swissuniversities who will talk about developments on the nationwide Open Access strategy for Switzerland.

The aim of this year's event is not only to give an overview of the strategic approach to Open Access but also to show what Open Access means in the daily life of librarians. Mr Bernhard Mittermaier from the Forschungszentrum Jülich will point out how the libraries can contribute and work towards Open Science by their daily work.

We will hear from the researchers' point of view by Mr Daniel Hürlimann from the University of St. Gallen and Mr Lawrence Rajendran from the University of Zurich about the obstacles to publish Open Access and to show you specific solutions to this challenge.

Mrs Snjezana Cirkovic, head of the Austrian e-Media Cooperation, will tell us more about Offsetting deals which were negotiated for Austria.

To complete this year's Symposium we also would like to deal with Big Deal licences with librarians and a representatives of the world leading academic publisher. The publisher's side will be represented by Mr Michael Neuroth from Elsevier while Mrs Powell and Mr Gerhard Bissels from the University of Bern will reflect the points of criticism towards these big deals from librarian side.

Afterwards, Mr Dirk Verdicchio (University of Bern) will lead the panel discussion, which is also open to the audience.

Now I will invite you to one of the most interesting days of the year. We hope you will enjoy the presentations and look forward to a lively discussion.