Support to and implementation of Open Access ideas at Vilnius University

What does Open Access mean?

Open Access is a free and unrestricted Internet access to production of scholarly research (articles, reviews, raw data, conference proceedings, other published and unpublished materials) that is freely available for all users to read, make copies, print several copies, store in computer medium, distribute, search for, or make references to full-text articles without prejudice to Copyright.

Open Access movement started in 1990s, when prices of scholarly journals increased enormously, which created a paradoxical situation where researchers publishing in prestigious journals could not recommend these articles to their students, and quickly and easily access relevant research results of other academic communities for the simple reason that university libraries could not afford subscribing to ever growing numbers of scholarly journals. Libraries were not able to satisfy users’ needs; this, in turn, impeded development of research and innovations. In order to overcome barriers to distribution of scholarly information created by commercial publishers, researchers from various countries and research fields initiated Open Access movement. The goal of this Movement is to secure free and unrestricted Internet access to results of scholarly research. Key stone of this Movement is Berlin declaration (2003) on Open Access to exact sciences and humanities information. It states that Open Access has to satisfy two conditions: authors have to enable free access to their studies and their use without prejudice of copyright; and to deposit them in academic repository.
Vilnius University: Facts and figures

• One of the oldest and most famous establishments of higher education in Eastern and Central Europe, founded in 1579.

• 12 faculties, 7 institutes, 4 study and research centers, the oldest Library in Lithuania, 3 university hospitals, an Astronomical Observatory, a Botanical Garden, a Centre of Information Technology Development, and St. John's Church.

• **Students:** 21596.

• **International students:** 713.
Vilnius University
Vilnius University Library: Facts and figures

- Founded: 1570;
- 5,369,959 physical units;
- Delivery: 541,066;
- Readers: 28,420;
- Visits: 529,707.
National Open Access Scholarly Communication and Information Center
Open Access: 
Consortium of the Lithuanian Academic Libraries for the Maintenance and Development of an Information Infrastructure for Scientific research and Studies 

• On the 26th of March, 2010 Vilnius University and 30 Lithuanian institutions signed an agreement on the Consortium; Vilnius University – administrated institution.

• At the moment - 44 members.

• The aim - to maintain and develop means for implementation of an information infrastructure for studies and research of Lithuanian academic libraries.

• One of the main means to realize this aim - Lithuanian Academic Electronic library (eLABa).
Open Access:
National Open Access Repository – eLABa (1)

• eLABa - a joint information system of Lithuanian research and studies electronic documents, functioning as national Open Access Repository.
• With financial support from UNESCO eLABa started in 2003.
• The first step - creation of ETD (Database of Lithuanian electronic theses and dissertations).
• General search is executed in portal **Lietuvos virtuali biblioteka**: [http://www.lvb.lt](http://www.lvb.lt)

• At the moment eLABa posts: 7297 digital objects, among them: articles – 6267; in OA - 7090 digital objects.
ETD posts 24,338 documents; in OA - 17,184 documents.

Since 2013 - project *Creation and development of eLABa integral services*. Aim - to improve eLABa though creation and development of integral services. Lead institution – Vilnius university.
Open Access:

Project National Open Access Research Data Archive (in Lit. MIDAS)

- Under construction
Open Access:

**MIDAS: Facts and figures**

- Lead institution – Vilnius University.
- Project partner – Vilnius University Hospital Santariškių Klinikos (Santariskes Clinics).
- Project participants: 13 institutions of science and studies and medical institutions.
- Project duration: 30 months (start date: January 1, 2012 – end date: June 30, 2014).
- Project funded by EU Structural Funds and national budget.
- Budget of the project – almost 15 mln. Lt (~4, 34 mln. Eu).
Open Access: **MIDAS - purpose of the Project**

- To establish the infrastructure of national research data archive that enables collection and storage of research and empirical data and ensures free, easy and convenient access to the data.
Open Access: MIDAS - when implementing the Project (1):

• unified national empirical research data archive will be created;
• restrictions on access to data will be removed;
• duplication of data will be avoided;
• access and dissemination through a single interface will be ensured.
• preservation of scientific data will be guaranteed;
• procedural systems of data management, administration and use will be created;
• a pilot application for data analysis will be established.
Thank you for the attention!

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