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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)?