

BETTER THAN AVERAGE

THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF A DEPARTMENT ACTIVELY SUPPORTING OPEN ACCESS

INTRODUCTION

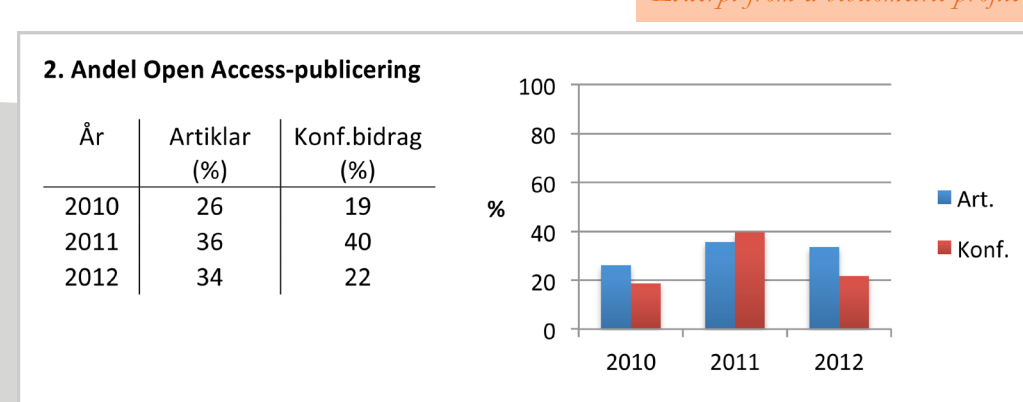
Chalmers University of Technology adopted an Open Access (OA) policy in 2010, mandating its researchers to deposit copies of their work in the university repository (CPL). The Library was given the mission to implement the policy but also to monitor the progress. The Library has since then monitored the development of OA papers in the repository, but it wasn't until 2013 that these numbers were reported back to the university management and the departments in a formalized way.

The share of OA publications varies to a large degree between different departments and subject fields. The reaction from the departments

when presented to the numbers also varies, from 'the usual suspects': workflow issues, copyright issues, didn't remember etc. to the reaction: how do we get better?

The department of Signals and Systems, which publish about 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and 200 peer-reviewed conference papers yearly, is an example of a department who wanted to get better. The department therefore decided in to start a project in order to increase the number of OA publications and by doing so hopefully also increase the visibility of the researchers and their results on the web.

Excerpt from a bibliometric profile



FEEDBACK

Bibliometric profiles for the departments have been presented since 2010 at Chalmers. 2013 years' report also included information about the amount of self-archived papers in CPL.

Reactions on the Open Access report put forward in the dialogue between the departments and the university management

"... in the report calculating the Open Access volume, it must be taken into account that some areas of research have their own Open Access channels, approved by funding agencies. For a fair picture we need an overview of this."

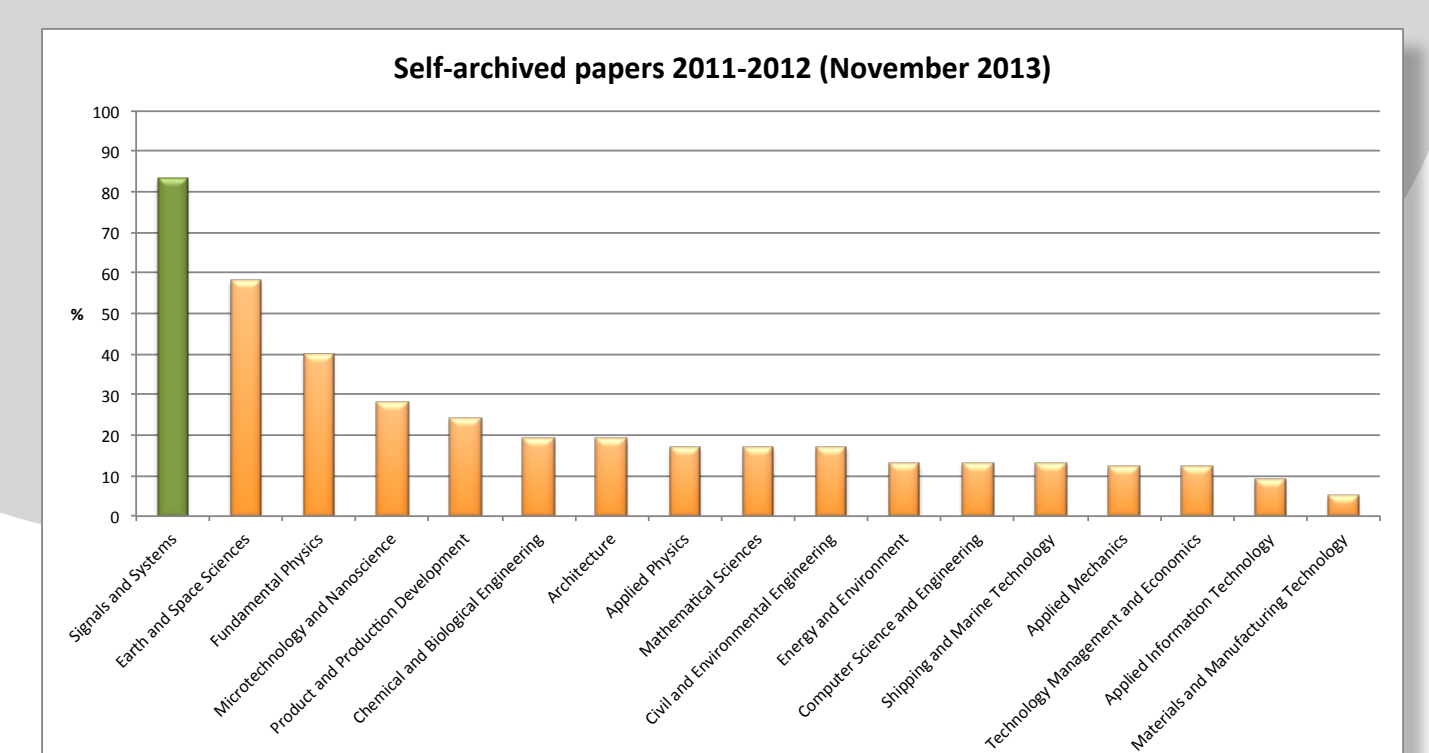
"... mathematicians are used to publish in a database called arXiv. How can these be integrated into the local repository?"

"... the library must even more actively remind authors to deposit full text."

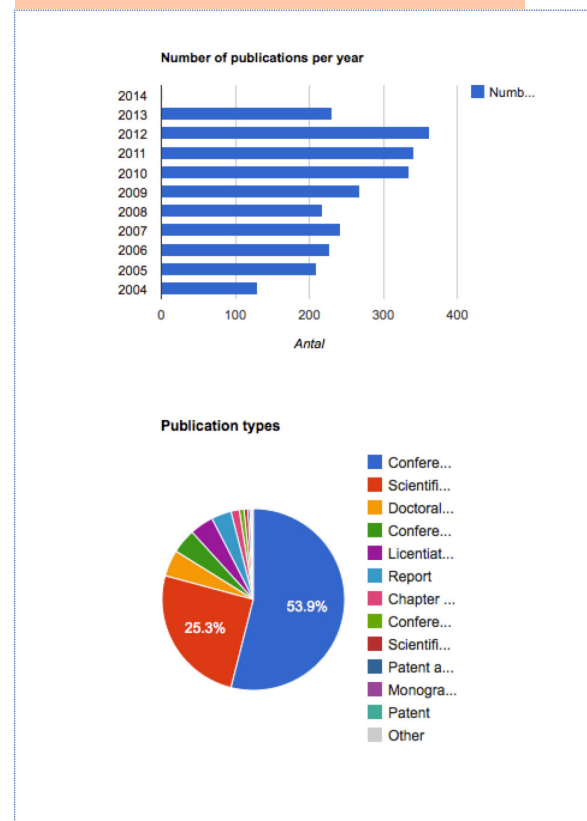
"... we want automatic reminders to deposit full text."

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS

The share of OA publications varies to a large degree between different departments. There are several issues that might cause these differences – from publishing traditions among different research areas to lack of communication etc.



Publication output from Signals and Systems



THE CASE OF SIGNALS AND SYSTEMS

The department of Signals and Systems consists of three divisions and nine research groups working with research and education. In all there are about 160 persons active at the department. The department was not satisfied with a result of about 30% being published as OA, and the head of the department wanted to raise this share to a much higher level.

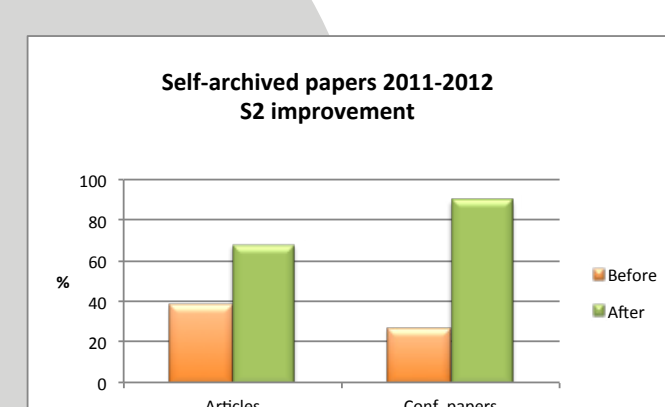
OUTCOME

About 100 faculty members from the department were contacted and over 350 full-texts of peer-reviewed journal articles and conference papers were collected and uploaded to CPL.

The share of self-archived journal articles published between 2011-2012 raised from 38% to 68%. When looking at the conference papers for the same period of time the share raised from 27% to 90%.

In the cases where abstracts was missing in the bibliographical records, about 200 were added to the departments bibliographical records in CPL. This to increase visibility in Google Scholar

At the end of the project all of the permanently employed at the department had profiles in Google Scholar Citations and Microsoft Academic Search.



COLLABORATION WITH THE LIBRARY

In order to raise the share of OA, an agreement between the department of Signals and Systems and the Library was signed, where the Library would assist the researchers to submit their papers to the repository.

As a second part of the project the faculty members who didn't have profiles in Google Scholar Citations and Microsoft Academic Search were asked to create such profiles. Here permanently employees had priority. Also here the Library would assist the researchers.

LESSONS LEARNED

- It's important to give feedback about OA in the right context
- It's important to make OA a strategic issue
- The effort from a department makes a big difference
- It's important to keep up the momentum