

Enriching Open Science Landscape in Poland: Polish Medical Libraries Building Crises And Repositories to Promote Polish Medical Research Output and Facilitate Scholarly Communication

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Abstract

Introduction

Polish medical institutions until recently lacked proper CRIS systems and digital repositories. Because of that, Polish researchers and medical professionals lacked easy access to scientific information and research results from the field of medicine. Since the publications and research information was scattered or unavailable directly, researchers and clinicians missed opportunities for wider collaboration, use of data or verification of the current state of medical knowledge.

As the principles of open access and openness in science are being increasingly promoted and required by the scientific community as well as many national and international scientific institutions, funders and publishers, Polish medical libraries have taken actions to build CRIS systems and digital repositories to fill the gap and to showcase and promote the research output and research potential of their parent institutions.

Aim

To build digital platforms incorporating the features of current research information systems and institutional repositories to showcase, provide access to and promote the scientific output, research and resources of Polish medical institutions. To improve scientific research, collaboration and scholarly communication. To showcase and promote the research potential and scientific achievements of Polish medical institutions both nationally and internationally.

Methods

Two different ways of implementing the principles were undertaken by nine medical libraries in Poland. The Library of the Medical University of Lodz (MUL) built InterScienceCloud (ISC) – an integrated platform of information about

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the scientific activities of MUL: <https://isc.umed.pl>. Seven libraries of medical universities from Bialystok, Gdansk, Katowice, Lublin, Szczecin, Warsaw, Wroclaw and the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine in Lodz built Polish Platform of Medical Research (PPM) – a digital platform showcasing the scientific achievements and research potential of the eight institutions: <https://ppm.edu.pl/>. The same idea but diverse ways of achieving it.

Both platforms were built as part of projects implemented between 2017 and 2020 under the Operational Programme Digital Poland for 2014–2020 and co-financed by the European Union through the European Regional Development Fund. Various forms of partnership were formed between the participating medical libraries. Both platforms use the same research information management software (Omega-PSIR by Sages). They are integrated with ORCID, CrossRef, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar and the Polish national CRIS system POL-on.

Results

Polish medical community gained new tools to improve scholarly communication and cooperation, both nationally and internationally. An integrated network of CRIS systems of Polish medical institutions was established. As part of the projects, the institutions developed and implemented open access policies as well as various internal regulations governing the research and publication processes, all compliant with national regulations and recommendations.

The collaboration between all nine medical libraries led to a joint online conference “Open medicine in the practice of Polish scientific institutions” (21–22.01.2021). They are also open for further expansion of the network and inclusion of other medical institutions. ISC and PPM are already planning to merge, and a few other institutions have already declared to join the network.

Discussion

Polish medical libraries are very proactive in their support of medical research and researchers and actively meet emerging trends. They often instigate changes and innovations. The two projects have contributed to the promotion of the research output and enhancing of the research impact of Polish medicine as well as facilitating scholarly communication. They have also contributed to the strengthening of collaboration and partnership among Polish medical libraries.

The two projects also revealed the changing role of library professionals with regard to promotion of open access culture in the digital environment – Polish medical librarians needed to acquire new knowledge and skills such as CRIS software, research data and WCAG standards.

Keywords: CRIS, Institutional Repositories, Open Science