OPEN UP! THE POLITICS AND PRAGMATICS OF OPEN ACCESS

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Abstract

In the sciences and humanities, the rise of digital media was accompanied by a call for more openness: access to scientific publications ought to be provided free of charge on the Internet (gratis open access), and raw scientific data should be made available as open data so it can be reexamined and reused by other researchers (libre open access).The academic landscape adapted fast to this disruption: open access is by now an official funding guideline of the EU, and several commercial publishers have started successful Open Access journals. Furthermore publishing guidelines of some journals require the release of research data along with the published results.

From this point of view, it seems as if the open access movement has been wholly successful, and its promise is being implemented institutionally. What modes of openness are called for in knowledge production and dissemination? Does the take-up of open access fully satisfy the drive towards openness stirred up by digital media? Or do we perhaps need more radical approaches to open access, such as "Guerrilla Open Access" proposed by Aaron Swartz? At the same time, the demand for open access affects the very media formats of academic publishing. Experiments in book publishing like the *Living Books* series of Open Humanities Press challenge the closure and solidity of the printed book as much as the integrity and singularity of texts that now find themselves endlessly remixed.

Drawing on short example-oriented presentations of current projects, workshop participants are invited to engage in a discussion on the promises and challenges of the quest for openness within academia. How is this challenging academic research practices or even our understanding of knowledge? What are the limits to openness? Aiming for an openness, that doesn't simply service but also challenges institutional structures, the politics and pragmatics of *openness* are to be addressed.

We welcome short 5 minute interventions by workshop participants detailing their experiences with Open Access or presenting a project they are engaged in. Please email us beforehand at participate@hybridpublishing.org

References

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