



# CREATING KNOWLEDGE 2018

## Information Specialist Facing New Challenges: Open Science and Research and Scholarly publishing as new areas of expertise

---

*Johanna Kiviluoto & Riikka Sinisalo, Lahti University of Applied Sciences, Finland.*

The open science and research (OSR) movement has been shaping the world of scholarly communication for a few years now. In Finland, the Ministry of Education and Culture (2018) promoted research information availability and open science through the Open Science and Research Initiative. As a part of this initiative, an evaluation of the openness of Finnish research organizations was completed (ibid.). The first evaluation indicated that OSR functions needed clearer guidelines and a coordinating unit to further improve the cultural maturity in Lahti University of Applied Sciences (LAMK). Furthermore, the scholarly publishing activities also needed a new home base due to organizational changes. As the information and library services had the basic understanding of scholarly publishing, different publishing channels and responsible conduct of research, it was decided that the library takes on these responsibilities.

For the new challenges, the traditional information specialist skills set needed updating. New skills were acquired via both formal and informal learning, benchmarking and trial-and-error. These new skills were immediately put to use in LAMK by creating a new open access publishing platform, organizing workshops and lectures for the staff and creating organizational guidelines for open RDI practices. The next organizational maturity evaluation ranking round proved the library's new expertise, as LAMK climbed two levels up, being the second highest university of applied sciences in Finland (Ministry of Education and Culture 2017).

As for the role of the information specialists, the new role as OSR experts has opened up new possibilities within the organization. They are now seen more as possible partners in different RDI activities, participating in project work and further developing the way openness is being carried out in all aspects of RDI and teaching. The paper offers a case example of how library professionals can diversify and update their skills pool and shape the future of their profession.

Key words: open science and research, scholarly publishing, information professional's roles.

### References

- Ministry of Education and Culture. (2017). Evaluation of Openness in the Activities of Research Organisations and Research Funding Organisations in 2016. [Online document]. Helsinki: Ministry of Education and Culture, Open Science and Research Initiative. Available at <http://urn.fi/URN:NBN:fi-fe2016111829246>
- Ministry of Education and Culture. (2018). Open Science and research. Available at <https://openscience.fi/>

### Authors

Johanna Kiviluoto is an Information Specialist at Lahti University of Applied Sciences (LAMK). She received her MA in Comparative Religion from the University of Helsinki in 2004, after which she complemented her



# CREATING KNOWLEDGE 2018

degree with Information Studies in the Institute for Extension Studies TYT at the University of Tampere. She has worked in the field of information and library services since 2001, both in public and academic libraries. Johanna's current professional interests include academic libraries' roles in promoting openness, as well as developing open science and research practices in all areas of RDI activities in LAMK.

Riikka Sinisalo is an Information Specialist at Lahti University of Applied Sciences (LAMK). She received her M. Soc. Sc in Information Studies from the University of Tampere in 2008, after which complementing her studies with Vocational Teacher Education from Jyväskylä University of Applied Sciences. She is currently working on developing information literacy teaching practices in LAMK and furthering open science and research throughout the organization.