

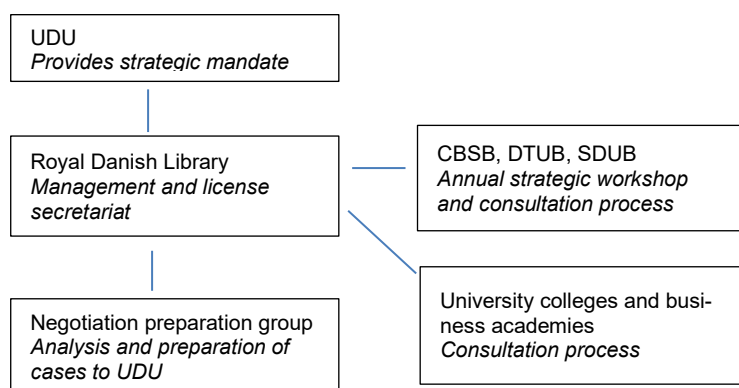


Governance structure for national licence negotiations in Denmark

Governance structure

It is the University Directors' Committee (UDU), which, in collaboration with the Royal Danish Library, develops strategy and provides a total, clear strategic negotiation mandate to the largest national negotiations.

UDU also ensures ongoing relevant involvement of the Danish Rectors' Conference and the Research and Innovation Policy Committee, respectively, and takes a position on direct participation in the negotiations that may be crucial for Denmark.



Negotiation preparation group

The Royal Danish Library has established a negotiation preparation group. The group must function as a cooperation body and provide negotiation preparation work (for example, financial, legal, bibliometric and Open Access data analyses) as well as prepare material for presenting cases in UDU.

Involvement in the annual strategy workshop and professional librarianship consultation

The Royal Danish Library holds an annual strategy workshop with the university libraries directors and their specialists in order to ensure involvement in the general approach of the negotiation and strategy presentations to UDU.

In addition, the Royal Danish Library will ensure a professional librarianship consultation of university colleges and business academies, as well as the university libraries at Copenhagen Business School, Technical University of Denmark and University of Southern Denmark prior to determining the final negotiation mandate of the largest negotiations.

Background

In Document no. 114 of 27 March 2019 (Finance Committee, The Danish Parliament), it was decided to terminate DEFF (under the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces) and transfer the national licence negotiations to the Royal Danish Library¹. The decision went into force on 1 June 2019.

On 21 June 2019, the Danish universities, through the University Directors' Committee, and the Royal Danish Library decided to follow a new governance structure for licence governance and negotiations in Denmark.

The starting point is the following recommendation in "Rapport med anbefalinger fra arbejdsgruppen om den fremtidige organisering af forskningsbiblioteksområdet" [Report with recommendations from the workgroup regarding the future organisation of the research library area]:²

It is recommended that joint licence negotiations of the universities' e-resource portfolios remain a basic service but are moved from DEFF (the Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces) to the Royal Danish Library combined with a new governance structure. It is recommended that the Royal Danish Library is given the task of preparing a proposal for a new governance structure for licence negotiations in cooperation with the University Directors' Committee, which accommodates the considerations mentioned above. It is recommended that in a new structure, the university directors take responsibility individually in order to ensure the right professional librarianship input within their own organisation.

The goal of gathering the licence negotiations at the Royal Danish Library is to achieve efficiency improvement (double work is removed), attain more clout in negotiations (negotiation mandate from university management as part of the governance structure) and to ensure better uniformity with general policies in the area (Open Access; Open Science etc.).

The report emphasises that it is essential to ensure the universities' co-ownership of the licence negotiations and ensure understanding that licence financing and access to licensable materials are related to the entire publishing cycle, including the involvement of researchers in peer reviews and editorial committees, as well as pressure from foundations and others on publishing in Open Access (OA), which involves Article Processing Charges (APC), submission of copyright etc. Simultaneous payment of licences and APC is called "double dipping" and undermines the finances of the universities. Therefore, Open Access should be a part of the licence negotiations – not something that is paid outside of them, and which therefore, taken as a whole, contribute to increasing expenses for the universities. In other words, it is no longer

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¹ <https://kum.dk/nyheder-og-presse/pressemeldelser/nyheder/licensforhandlinger-skal-sammes-paa-det-kgi-bibliotek-1/1/1/>

² https://kum.dk/fileadmin/KUM/Documents/Nyheder%20og%20Presse/Nyheder/2018/Rapport_med_anbefalinger_fra_arbejdsgruppen_om_forskningsbiblioteker.pdf

enough to obtain a licence negotiation mandate. It is also important to ensure a connection with, for example, the National Open Access Strategy³ and the universities' implementation thereof. The report from the workgroup emphasises that a new governance structure must take the following into consideration:

- Ownership: It must be ensured that the universities and the other participating institutions have the right influence and are assured that their interests will be taken care of.
- Clout: The governance structure must ensure the agility and simplicity that is required so that the processes do not hinder good negotiation results.
- General policies: The structure must contribute to supporting the general policies in this area, including Open Science.

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³ <https://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/samspil-mellem-viden-og-innovation/open-access/artikler/danmarks-nationale-strategi-for-open-access>